THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER.

LORD HARTINGTON has recorded his opinion on the report of the Indian Law Commission. His Lordship says that, in the case of the Bills relating to Negotiable instruments, Transfer of Property, and Alluvion, which have already been introduced into the Legislative Council and referred to Select Committees, the Report of the Law Commissioners should be circulated to the several Committees which might then proceed to report upon the measures in the usual course. As to the remainder of the Drafts which have not yet been introduced into the Legislature, His Lordship remarks, "I shall not object, if you so decide, to their introduction, in order that the Select Committees to which they will in ordinary course be referred, may, with the Commissioners' report before them, proceed to report upon the Bills." His Lordship requests that all the Bills referred to in his despatch, as settled by the Committees may be re-translated and re-circulated in India, and be submitted to him with the reports of the Committees, before any further steps are taken regarding them. We hail this despatch on the principle of the Bengali saying, delay is the best preventive of a coming disaster.

IT IS stated that Dr. Hermann Jacobi, the well-known Sanscritist, is to succeed Dr. Buhler in the Educational Inspectorship, Northern Division, Bombay. He is a native of Cologne. He studied Sanscrit and Comparative Philology at the Universities of Berlin and Bonn, taking his degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the latter. In addition to his speciality, Dr. Jacobi is a good mathematical scholar and a naturalist.

THE BOARD OF VISITORS for Cooper's Hill College, have proposed some alteration of the regulations under which students will be admitted to that institution. In place of the competitive examination, there will be a preliminary qualifying examination for entrance, and the competition for appointments to the Indian service will be held at the end of the College course. The age for admission is at the same time to be raised from 19 to 21 years.

VILLAGE CESS is to be levied in Madras. The Government of Fort St. George notifies that all holders of land in the ryotwari villages of the taluks mentioned are liable to the demand and payment of 1 anna in every rupee of assessment and water-rate on account of that Cess from Fasli 1290. The State is the landlord in Madras, and yet it levies local cesses for land improvement.

A BOMBAY PAPER understands that "Government have recently passed a resolution to the effect that in future the ryots should pay the two annual instalments of the revenue assessment at the fixed periods, that in case of failure to pay at those periods, the ryots forfeit all right to their holdings which immediately become the property of Government, and at Government disposal to be dealt with as unoccupied land. Formerly if a ryot failed to pay the assessments at the fixed period, a notice was served on him and the expense of serving notice and a fine in addition to the assessment were imposed upon him as punishment for defaults to pay in time. If he failed to pay even after notice, his moveable and other immoveable property were attached and sold. The sale of his holding was the last step in the recovery of the land revenue, which was resorted to by Government. But now the very next day after the fixed periods of payment the ryot is deprived of his holding." Is not this eviction with vengeance? No compensation is to be paid to the ryot by Government for disturbance of this kind. It is when the private landlord is concerned, the humanitarian sympathies of Government are roused.

DR. LISBOA, President of the Grant Medical College, thus advocates the use of opium: "It is my opinion that many lives, which would have otherwise been extinguished or turned miserable, are saved and rendered comfortable by the use of this drug. European merchants of this city will perhaps be surprised to hear that some of their most active brokers mostly Banians and Bhatias, are opium-eaters. I believe that opium does not render the human body so susceptible to liver and kidney diseases as spirits do. It is also an undisputed fact that a full dose of opium administered a short time before the commencement of the cold stage of intermittent fevers, checks the ague; or when given at the commencement of the stage, not only lessens the severity of the shivering fit, but also the intensity and duration of the hot stage." It is perfectly true that opium has saved many a life and materially contributed to health.

TUESDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER.

MR. BRADLAUGH has been mobbed. On the night of the 20th he was to deliver a lecture at Exeter, but in the afternoon some of his committee apprehended a breach of the peace, and acting on this the deputy mayor requested Mr. Bradlough not to hold the meeting, warning him that if he did so he would be held responsible for any injurious results that might happen. Mr. Bradlough replied, expressing disgust that any such information should have been sworn, but abstained from taking any part in the meeting. When this announcement was made the hall was filled by a noisy audience, who for a long time continued shouting for Mr. Bradlough. At last it was promised that their money should be returned, and the audience left for Mr. Bradlough's hotel, some of them forcing their way into his room, and the remainder creating a great disturbance in the street.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE for India has appointed the following gentlemen to be a Board of Visitors for the Royal Indian Engineering College, Cooper's Hill:—Chairman, Sir Richard Temple, G C. S I., C. I. E., D. C L. Members—Mr. W. H. Barlow, F. R. S., President, Inst C. E.; Mr. F. T. Bramwell, F. R. S.: Lieut-Gen. C H. Dickens, C. S. I., R. A.: Sir Barrow H. Ellis, K. C. S. I.: Mr. J. Fowler, past President, Inst. C. E.; Dr. C. W. Siemens, D. C. L., F. R. S.; Lieut-Gen. R. Strachey C. S. I. R. E. Col. H. Yule, C. B., R. E.

A FRIEND writes:

The *Pioneer* says:—"Mr. George (the American Economist) considers that pauperism would be eradicated by the State appropriating rent. But whether this would so entirely depend on the way in which the State employed the sums so received. It might be better to leave rent in the pockets of individuals than to spend it on a large standing army; and the example of India shows that the absorption of rent by the Government has not raised the wages of labor."

We quite agree; and point to Bengal as an example to show how the laboring classes of the rest of India would gain by the State giving up its share of the rent to individuals in perpetuity. Those who are charmed with fanciful ideas about the nationalization of land and the still more revolutionary doctrines of communism, should study the land question of India with reference to the modified communism of joint families, village communities and caste.

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY to His Excellency the Viceroy has addressed the following letter to Colonel H. S. Olcott of the Theosophic Society:

MY DEAR SIR,—I have to thank you for your letter of the 24th and am glad to learn from it that you are not responsible for the publication of the letter which prefaced an article entitled "A Day with Mme. Blavatsky," which appeared lately in the *Times of India*. I will not conceal from you that the publication of that letter and of your own letter to the *Bombay Gazette* has caused some annoyance to the Viceroy and other members of the Government. The point that is open to serious objection is, that from the language used in the letters, and from the context, the public may be led to suppose that the Viceroy's invitation to you to Government House, and the action of the Government through the Foreign Office, implied some sanction or approbation of the Theosophical Society, of which you are President. That is in no degree the case. The invitation to Government House was issued, to you, in consequence of His Excellency's wish to show every possible civility to any American citizens who may be visiting India, and in ignorance on his part of the existence of the Theosophical Society; and the letters from the Foreign Department, as explained to you in the last of them, are not intended to express any opinion, on the part of the Government of India, with respect to your Society, and ought not to be quoted as if they conveyed any approval whatever of its objects or proceedings. If you are willing to explain this yourself to the public, nothing more need be said on the subject. * * *

I remain, My dear Sir,
Your faithfully
COL. OLCOTT. (Sd.) H. W. PRIMROSE.

THE ENGLISHMAN states that a secret and confidential account of the war in Affghansthan is being prepared in the Quarter-Master General's office for record.

THE SAME JOURNAL states that the Amritsar merchants are withdrawing their agents from Kabul. This looks ominous.

THE WORLD has a portrait of the Maharaja Dhuleep Sing, in which the writer thus hits off Rani Chunda:

It was the change of religion and the breaking of caste which brought about a more outward than real division between Duleep Singh and his celebrated mother, Chunda Koor. The portrait of the remarkable woman, who dared every thing in her son's cause, hangs in the boudoir of Elvedon Hall. It is the face of a woman no longer in her first youth, and of aspect rather pensive than strictly beautiful. The facial angle is hardly what is called a good one, for the forehead retreats suddenly from the long straight nose. But there is in the eyes and mouth ineffable sweetness; and the hands sculptured in marble and lying beneath, are so dainty and so diminutive that it is no wonder that Rungeet Singh loved this woman above all others. When he died, and the trouble came upon the Sikh empire, this apparently fragile creature, with the little hands and sleepy smile, showed what lay concealed in that flattened forehead. Chunda Koor was, after the Sikh war put under surveillance, and at the close of the second war was removed to England. Here she lived at Kensington for many years, if not in strict retirement, yet according to the rites of her own religion, for she would not eat with the son whom she dearly loved.

Notwithstanding her many faults the Sikhs adored this Rani.

THE LONDON ECONOMIST has the following:

Conjectures have frequently been made as to the amount of the debt of the United States held out of that country. A very curious estimate on the point is to be found among the speeches of Mr. Sherman, Secretary to United State's Treasury. Speaking in the Senate on March 2nd, 1870 Mr. Sherman estimated that $ 1,000,000,000 of the debt was held out of the country. By 1878 this figure was greatly changed. Mr. Sherman in the speech at Toledo on August 26, 1878, referred to the sum then held out of the United States, and said "two years ago the general estimate was $600000000 Now after the most careful examination, it is estimated somewhere near $ 200000000 to $ 250000000." The reduction in the amount is very remarkable. It is really equivalent to a reduction of the debt of the United States of about £ 150000000 in eight years as far as the charge on the property of the people is concerned. The transfer of the immense sum must also have a great effect on the foreign trade of the country. Of course, the sum due for interest out of the country has followed the fluctuation in the amount of the debt held outside its limits.

The time is fast approaching when the Indian loans would be chiefly held by foreign nations.

WEDNESDAY, 17TH NOVEMBER.

OUR BOMBAY Contemporary the *Review* reproduces the following from a speech of Mr. Digby, late editor of the *Madras Times* and Secretary to the Madras Famine Fund of 1878-79:

Mr. Digby said, in answer to Mr. Edmond's remark regarding the saving of Indians from famine by Englishmen, he would like to be permitted to say one word more. It would be recollected that two or three years ago a great famine raged in Southern India. During that famine, it was admitted by the Commissioners appointed by the Government of India to enquire into the famine, that five millions of people had died from want of food. He (Mr. Digby) was speaking from very intimate knowledge of the entire circumstances, arising from the duties he had performed in meeting the distress, and partly from official statements made to the Government, all of which, under special circumstances, passed through his hands, and he must say that only in one part of Southern India was that famine adequately and successfully grappled with and overcome. That part of India was not Madras, which was ruled by a British Governor and under English administration; it was not Bombay, which was governed by the very energetic Sir Richard Temple; nor was it in Mysore, also under British rule; but it was in Hyderabad, which was ruled by the natives themselves—(cheers). The famine there, was met by effort and action greatly different to those of the places under the direct control of the Indian Government, and by means different to those which the British officers thought were right—in a word, Indians knew how to adapt themselves to the needs of their countrymen. The policy pursued by the Government of Hyderabad was the only successful policy pursued during the last famine in India. A perusal of the report published by the Revenue Secretary of the Nizam, Maulvi Mohadi Ali, would prove this. As he had said, in the districts governed by the British, five millions of persons died from want of food, and he (Mr. Digby) did not think the British people could take very much credit for that—(hear, hear). He thought if the Indian people were allowed to administer the affairs of their own country a little more than was the case now, the Empire would soon be in a better position than it was at the present moment—(applause.)

This is disinterested testimony.

THE SAME contemporary writes:

Judgment is coming on the zemindars of Behar, planters included; and as, under the new Rent Law, this may extend even unto Lower and Northern Bengal as well as Orissa, we may expect to hear deep groans and prolonged outcries from those quarters. That was a fine peal of deep brass, worthy of transmission by telephone, which was raised at Bankipore on the 5th and obtained such echo as it could in a long telegram to our daily contemporaries. The resolutions though civilly worded, are as bold as brass. The privileged class concerned have, during the present generation absorbed an immense increase in the monopoly value of their estates. Now that it is proposed to regulate such increase with more regard to the claims of the cultivators, they cry out that their rights are invaded. They even dispute the power of the Governor-General—that is the Supreme Legislature to enact the regulations proposed in the Rent Bill. They have annotated the said Bill in a note of portentous dimensions which is incorporated with their memorial. Thus the Behar Landholders'

Association, with the young Maharaja of Durbungha at their head, is making a formidable demonstration. Nor is this a mere local movement. For weeks past the *Hindoo Patriot* has pursued the Draft Bill through all its clauses and the reports on which it is founded. It is needless to say that journal has performed its task with much ability; and it is only fair to notice that its criticisms have been more discriminating than those seem to be that are embodied in the Behar memorial. But the note of the *Patriots* opposition is one of determined defence of landholders claims to the monopoly value of the soil and maintenance of their sway over the cultivator.

We do not clearly understand our contemporary. What would be his feeling if the Bombay Government were to make a forcible distribution of his press property among his gang of compositors and pressmen. Perhaps he would cry out against the iniquity of such a measure.

THE AMERICANS are standing up strongly for protectionism. An English paper says:

Our American cousins are following the example of our French neighbours, and preparing to run English vessels out of the carrying trade of the world by means of heavy bounties to be paid for the encouragements of native American shipping. The Boston Shipping Convention has just passed what, as regards England, are most reactionary and restrictive, and, as regards the states themselves, are most stringently protective, resolutions. The Convention declines to accept 10 per cent of a bounty to American shippers, accompanied by 10 per cent duties from foreign vessels, to preclude their having any fair chance of competition, and demand heavier bounties and duties both, if not even the absolute prohibition of foreign shipping. This is carrying things with a high hand; and although Convention resolutions are inoperative and useless unless taken up by Congress and put in legislative form and force, the tide is running so strongly in favour of protection in the United States that it is likely to flow all over the land.

Why did not Lord Salisbury, who inveighed so much against the Indian Cotton Duties, try his hand with America?

THE BOMBAY REVIEW has the following:

'Mr. Souttar of Bombay is the heading to an article of set views in our correct and well informed contemporary of the *Hindu Patriot* The *Times of India*, in reproducing the article, is careful to omit its opening passage and text, which omission we are bound to supply.

So far as we have been able to follow this article, Mr. Souttar seems to have out-theosophized the theosophists in collecting the largest stock of information on a host of subjects in the shortest space of time. But we cannot deny that on the whole the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality has left Bombay with experiences which may be of very great use to him by way of comparison. Some such comparison has been attempted by the *Hindu Patriot* in the article we have referred to; and to those interested in the municipal progress of both cities the points of comparison will strike as well defined, in spite of the drawback that they are drawn in haste and for a set purpose.

ALLUDING to the domestic complications of the White Czar, *Vanity Fair* has the following uncomplimentary observations:—

* * * Yet the marriage is now declared to have taken place on the 19th July, some five weeks only after the empress's death occurred I remember that upon that occasion the *Times* spoke feelingly of "the bitter grief of the bereaved Czar, and assured him of the respectful sympathy" of all Europe. Yet at the very moment the sly old reprobate was thinking of and arranging for his second marriage. If these things are done in the green tree, what might not be done in the dry? It will certainly give Mr. Gladstone cause to reflect.

It would seem as though the wicked old sinner has kept his abdication in hand in order to make a better bargain with it for his and Princess Dolgrouke's children, and that if the latter are recognised as Princes of the blood "he will at once hand over the Government to the Czarewitch'— if not, not. The Czarewitch is expected to jib at this proposal to add to his relations. But things are already so mixed in the Imperial family that it is really not worth while to quarrel over such trifles.

THURSDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER.

REFERRING to the destruction by fire of the church in Kashmir, a correspondent writes:

The *Pioneer* and some other papers have been making allusion to the destruction of the only Christian Church in Kashmir by fire, and from the particulars published, it is clear it was the result of an accident.—The Church in question was much neglected, for it was converted into a Dak Bungalow, and the horses of visitors stabled in it. But who is responsible for the desecration of the edifice? There are two permanent Missionaries at Srinugger, who are constantly travelling about Kashmir. Did they know nothing about the matter? There is also a Political Officer on special duty. Was he ignorant of the use made of the Church? What an edifying spectacle it must have been to the Kashmerians, whom the Missionaries were sent to convert, to see a Church so utterly neglected. This matter requires to be cleared up. The Government would not be doing its duty, if it failed to call for an explanation.

THE HARVEST time in Bengal is fast approaching and it is very gratifying to notice that the yield will be perhaps above average. In the districts of the Burdwan division comprising Burdwan, Bankura, Beerbhoom, Midnapore, Hooghly and Howrah, the prospects are good, and an abundant harvest is assured. In the Presidency Division comprising the districts of 24-Pergunnahs, Nuddea, Jessore, and Moorshedabad, prospects are excellent and a good harvest is expected. In the Rajshye and Cooch Behar Division comprising Dinagepore, Rajshye, Rungpore, Bogra, Pubna, Darjeeling, Julpigoree and Cooch Behar the prospects of the crops are good. In the Eastern districts the prospects are generally very favorable. In the Chittagong Division the prospects are also very good. In the Behar districts the prospects are fair, in some generally favorable, in others they are very favorable. In Monghyr grain is very cheap. There is no ground for apprehension in the Orissa and Chota Nagpore Divisions. Unfortunately fever is partially or generally prevalent in almost all the districts of the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to us as follows:

Will you or any of your numerous readers kindly let me know through the medium of your much esteemed journal why, for the last few weeks, the Hughli Bridge Toll Collectors levy toll on persons going over the bridge to and from the *East Indian Railway Station, Howrah*? Is it because the E. I. R. Company have stopped payment of certain sums of money hitherto paid by them for the convenience of their passengers and the public who have to deal with them; or is it on account of certain new rules framed by the Bridge authorities, the operation of which I was hitherto quite ignorant of?

Yours &c
17 *November* 1880. PASSENGER.

THE FOLLOWING is from a correspondent at Beauleah:

At about half an hour after sunset a female child aged about ten years was carried away by a leopard at a place called Mastrattadighee, which is about 4 miles from Beauleah. This child was accompanying her mother who had a light in her hand, to a house not 20 yards off from the spot where she was seized. Attempts were made to rescue the child, and afterwards to track the animal to its haunt but to little purpose. Next morning the half eaten body of the child was discovered on the banks of an old tank overgrown with low jungle. From the fact of the hand of the child grasping a sapling when found it would appear she was alive there and must have struggled for life. Here is one amongst many good results of the strict enforcement of the Arms Act. Another child was killed in the same village some months ago. I take no note of cattle destroyed by wild animals. Fever is committing havoc amongst all classes here. The winter sowings were late this year but the *aman* promises to yield a bumper crop. Rice is selling here at 35 seers, kucha weight, a rupee.

FRIDAY, 19TH NOVEMBER.

FROM PAPERS received from the Bengal Office we learn that on September 6 at 7 P. M. the commander of the ship "British India" observing a blaze of light out in Lat. 29-28 South, hauled out for it and got close under the lee of a large dismasted ship, which was the "Bates Family," all masts, bow sprit and rudder gone, pumps choked, boats and decks broken, and stern smashed with no immediate danger of sinking. The officer and crew of "British India" succeeded in rescuing 44 men with the Captain. They were transferred to the 'Copenhagen,' which vessel met on the way to be taken to St. Helena.

WE ARE GLAD to learn that Mr. Baker of the firm of Messrs. Baker & Co., Northbrook House, intends a treat for the local public this season towards the end of this month. There will be on view in the Show Rooms of the Northbrook House life-size figures in wax all handsomely dressed, of H. M. the Queen-Empress, Princess of Wales, Empress Eugene, Lady Dadley and Mrs. Langtry.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the first number of a new journal entitled the *Serampore Advertiser*. It is a monthly newspaper and review and published at Serampore, priced one pice. We wish the adventure every success.

WE HAVE RECEIVED a copy of the rules of the Bhasha Improvement Society of Aligurh. We are sorry we cannot afford space for the same.

THE LAST NUMBER of the London National Indian Association contains an interesting article headed "Indian Students and English Universities," which we commend to the perusal of those of our young countrymen, who wish to complete their education in England.

A DASTARDLY murder was committed in broad day-light in Nimtollah Street of this city on Wednesday last. A young Hindu of about 22 years of age, by trade a ghurami or thatcher, rushed on a young unfortunate about 14 years old, who was returning from her bath in the river and hacked her to death. She died on the way to hospital and the murderer was caught red-handed The man is now under trial before the Magistrate.

THE BEHAR HERALD mentions having received grave complaints in regard to the manner in which the work of assessment under the License tax is being conducted in certain districts of the Patna Division; the case in other districts is said to be no better. It is impossible to guage the amount of silent suffering under the License Tax Act.

WE LEARN with great pleasure that Mr. Nanabhai Haridas has been appointed to act as Judge of the High Court of Bombay during the absence of Mr. Justice Campbell. Mr. Nanabhai has established his claims to a permanent appointment by filling temporary appointment on the bench of the High Court on several previous occasions with much credit.

WITH REFERENCE to a paragraph we gave last week intimating that an Indian student has applied to be allowed to pass the B. A. Examination in the London University in India we have now to state that the name of the student is Promada Churn Sen, who had passed the Gilchrist scholarship examination. The applicant has received a favorable reply from the Registrar of the University, but he has been asked to send the application through the India Office. We hope the applicant will meet with success. The greater the number of doors open for academic honors the better.

WE SEE it stated that the 17th of February next has been fixed for the taking of Census throughout India.

SATURDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER.

THERE were 396 deaths in Calcutta during the fortnight ending 13th November, of which 58 were from cholera, 189 from fevers, 54 from bowel complaints, 9 from accidents wounds and suicides, 40 from asthma and pthisis, 53 from tetanus and the rest from other causes, 28 children were still-born, 115 died between the ages 15 days and under and above 15 days and under one year, 91 persons died at the age of 60 and upwards. The deaths among non-Asiatics and mixed races were 27.

MR. T. C. HOPE it is stated has been appointed a provisional member of the Bombay Executive Council in the place of the Hon'ble L. Ashburner, whose tenure of office has expired. So there is no likelihood of his coming to the Financial Secretariat.

MR. ST. GEORGE TUCKER in a letter to the *Times* thus remarks on the results of the operations of the License Tax in the N. W. P. for September last: "A tax must indeed be bad, which fails to yield net revenue, which paralyzes the invaluable magisterial labours of England's best servants which corrupts native officials, and which teaches Her Majesty's loyal Indian subjects to tell lies." We commend these remarks to Lord Ripon.

THE FOLLOWING GENTLEMEN have been appointed to act as Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors:

Babu Girendra Nath Mitra, B.A., B.L., Manbhoom.
Moulvi Abdool Khair, M.A., Durbhunga.
Babu Upendra Chunder Mookerjee, Dinagpore.
" Mohendra Nath Mookerjee, Lohardugga.
" Ashutosh Gupta, M.A., Maldah.
" Jogendra Nath Bandopadhya, M.A, Hooghly.
" Sarat Chandra Dass, Tipperah.
" Poorna Chunder Gupta, Bogra.
" Shama Churn Das, Hooghly.
" Huro Krisha Das, Cuttack.
" Burhandeo Narain, Gya.

We are glad to observe that the claims of the graduates of the University to executive appointments are being gradually recognized by Government. Babu Girendranath Mitter was a Professor of the Metropolitan Institution. Babu Mohendra Nath Mookerjea is the editor of the *Arya Darsan*. There is one gentleman in the above list, to whom we are glad to observe justice has been done, though tardily, we allude to Babu Upendra Chunder Mookerjea, formerly Translator of the Judge's Court, Bankurah, and lately Sheristadar, Judge's Court, Burdwan. In the Behar Famine of 1873-74 he worked most zealously as a Relief officer, and he had been long promised promotion to the subordinate executive service in consideration of his meritorious services.

WE ARE SORRY to record the death of Babu Dina Doyal Pramanic, Zemindar and Honorary Magistrate, Santipore, aged about 45 years. His untimely death is mourned by a large circle of relations and friends and by the people of Santipore generally. To his public-spirited exertions the Santipore English school was chiefly indebted for its present status.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, November 14.—Dr. Hunter in the concluding lecture at Edinburgh, said that the British administration in India at the present day was superior to that of the Mogul and even to the East India Company's rule. He pointed to a pure Government, the administration of justice, the establishment of police, the extension of education, and the institution of public works. Dr. Hunter advocated the large employment of Natives in the Government service, and what difficulties there may be in so employing them are not due to any shortcomings of the Indian Government. The Natives must reform themselves, marry prudently, and migrate when circumstances press. He also said that representative institutions in India are necessary.

14. At Limerick a land Agent has been shot at and killed.

15. At a reception held by General Biddulph at Cyprus he said that the trade and navigation of the Island have increased greatly, and that the harvest was favourable. The natives present expressed their loyalty.

16. The Dover Corporation have resolved to present an address to Sir Frederick Roberts on his landing there.

17. Serious differences are reported to exist in the Cabinet. Mr. John Bright and Mr Joseph Chamberlain strongly oppose the coercion of Ireland.

17. The Nawab of Bhawalpur has been appointed a Grand Commander of the Star of India, and Gunda Sing of Patiala and Rao Ramjas of Kapurthala Companions of the same order.

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18. At the Cabinet Council held yesterday, no decision was come to on the question of the coercion of Ireland, or a writer (? winter) Session of Parliament. Mr. Chamberlain is demanding that reform should accompany coercion.

19. Yesterday Lord Granville, in reply to an influential deputation, said that the Government hoped, before the next dissolution of Parliament, to pass a Bill to assimilate the Borough and County Franchise.

19. The Admirals of the International Fleet have informed Admiral Seymour that they will support the Montenegrin troops if it be necessary for them to attack Dulcigno.

St. Petersburg, November 12. Five Nihilists have been sentenced to be hanged, and eleven to various terms of imprisonment with hard labour in the mines. In six cases a mitigation of punishment was recommended.

14. Fearing the threats of Government arising out of the high prices of bread, one hundred and twenty bakers here have made a reduction in their prices.

15. The sentence of death on three Nihilists has been commuted into hard labour in the mines for life.

19. The semi-official *Agence Russe* announces that negotiations between Russia and China are progressing favourably.

Constantinople, November 12. Dervish Pasha is threatening to force the surrender of Dulcigno. The citizens are in open rebellion, ask for a month's time before ceding it.

14. Mr. Goschen has announced that England proposes an international financial commission for the management of Turkish finances.

15. A Turkish Official, while reading the proclamation of the surrender of Dulcigno, was shot.

16. Dervish Pasha has replaced a cordon of Turkish troops before Dulcigno. 40,000 Redifs have been called out for service in Albania and the Frontier of Greece.

The Persians have captured Sandybalah. Numerous Khurds have been killed, wounded, and taken prisoner. Russia has expressed her readiness to assist Persia in suppressing the Khurdish revolt.

Teheran, November 14. Mouschir-id-Daouleh, Sipah Salar Azem has left Tabreez to take command of the Persian troops operating against the revolted Khurds, replacing Hischmet-id Daouleh.

15. Obei Dullah, a leader of the revolted Khurds, has retreated, and Taimur, the Commander of the Persian troops, has captured the position.

17. Obeidulla has been completely defeated, and Laimur Beg is pursuing the fugitive Khurds to the frontier.

Capetown November 16. The rebels have been repulsed by the Transkie militia, who killed and wounded several. The militia lost one officer and two Fingoes.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications:—1. Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the Bengal Presidency and of its chief Ports and each of its subordinate Ports with Indian Ports, for 1879-80. 2. Records of the Geological Survey of India, Vol. VII. Part 4, 1880. 3. Report on Railways in India for 1879-80 (Blue-Book.) 4. Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, No. VII. July 1880. 5. Notes on two copper-plate Inscriptions from Sylhet. By Rajendralala Mitra L.L.D., C.I.E., (reprinted from the Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal for August, 1880.) 6. Remarks on a MS. of the Setubandha. By Dr. Rajendralala Mitra (Reprinted from the Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal for August 1880.) 7. Journal of the National Indian Asociation of London, No. 119, November 1880. 8. Lalun the Beragun, or the Battle of Paniput—a Legend of Hindostan. By Mirza Moorad Ali Beg. 9. The Saddursana-Chintauika or Studies in Indian Philosphy, Vol. 4, No. 9, September 1880. 10. Life of the late Juggurnath Turkapunchanun in Bengali. By the late Wooma Churn Bhuttacharjea.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1880.

THE REPORT OF THE RENT-LAW COMMISSION.

XVII.

WE have concluded our review of the landed systems in force in Europe and America. The reader has doubtless noted their peculiar characteristics. With his knowledge of the tenures of Bengal he will be able to compare those systems with what is prevalent in this province. We will take a future opportunity to contrast them and to show whether the proposals made by the Rent-Law Commission are in consonance with the ideas regarding the occupation of land and rent current among the advanced nations of Europe and America. In the meantime we will acquaint the reader with the present position of the new Rent Bill.

The Bill as we have already stated has been translated into Bengali and Urdu and circulated with the Government *Gazette*. The non-English-knowing native population have thus been placed in a position to read for themselves the Bill and the report of the Commission. No general notification has been issued about the extension of time for the consideration of the Bill by the public, but when the translations have been issued in November, at least four months' time ought to be allowed to them to read, digest and comment on the Bill. This time we hear the Chief Justice has asked for the High Court for the consideration of the Bill and the submission of their views thereon. The District and Subordinate Judges and a few select Munsifs have been invited to give their opinion upon the Bill by the 30th day of this month. This time we repeat is too short; it ought to be extended, if the Government at all cares for mature opinion from its officers upon this vitally important measure.

The Government of Bengal has already submitted to the Government of India for their own consideration and for that of the Secretary of State the Report of the Commission with the draft Bill. The Lieutenant-Governor has intimated that he has not accepted the draft Bill in its entirety, that modifications will be made after the opinions of the local officers and of the classes most interested in it have been received. But His Honor thinks that the main lines laid down by the Rent Commission will not be departed from. His Honor has strong opinions on the subject and holds that the time has arrived for a thorough revision of the Rent-law, with a view to strengthen the position of the ryots. His Honor has recommended that the Bill should be introduced in the Governor General's Council for making laws and regulations, and that the Hon'ble Mr. Reynolds should be put in charge of it. This step His Honor suggests should be taken, because the Imperial Council comprises members from the different provinces, whose varied knowledge and experience will be of material aid to him in settling the principles and details of the Bill. If this position holds good, then the uselessness of the local Council is made patent. What is the use of keeping a local machinery for legislation, if in most important local matters it is to be superseded? The Rent Bill relates to the land tenures of Bengal, to the determination of land rent, to the mode of recovery of rent, and to the disposal of rent suits in Bengal, and such a Bill is taken off the hands of the Bengal Council. It is said that there are provisions in the Bill, which affect the jurisdiction of the High Court, and that the local Council is not competent to deal with matters affecting the High Court. But this Bill no more affects the High Court than does the existing Act, we mean Act VIII. of 1869, and yet the latter measure was passed by the Bengal Council. Why a different course is to be pursued in respect of the present Bill is not quite clear to us. We admit that the Imperial Council comprises members with varied experience, but no other province of India has a system of landed tenures analogous to that prevalent in Bengal. Those members have had no experience of this province, and they will therefore discuss the measure from stand-points quite foreign to Bengal. Nurtured in the school of periodical settlements, State landlordism, and small proprietorships they cannot be expected to sympathize with the system in force in Bengal, while lacking actual experience they will necessarily depend upon the information which may be supplied to them by the Bengal Government. It may be said that Act X. of 1859 was passed by the Governor General's Council. It is enough to say that then the local Council was not in existence. Besides, then the Bengal element was predominant in the Governor General's Council. There were Sir John Peter Grant, Sir Henry Ricketts, and Mr. Currie, all Bengal Civilians, with large experience of Bengal, particularly its revenue system. The Act then passed by them was considered the Ryot's Charter, but the wise men of Bengal of the present day do not put their faith in it—they advocate a more radical measure, and they naturally think that such a measure is likely to receive the sympathy of officials, who have been taught to regard the dead-level system of landed tenures as the Arcadia for the Indian peasantry.

We hear that the Government of India, without discussing the Bill, have agreed to the recommendation of the Bengal Government for its introduction into the Governor General's Council. Mr. Reynolds has been accordingly charged with it. That officer has been, however, instructed to make local enquiries respecting the provisions of the Bill, and to modify them in consultation with the Bengal Government before formally submitting it to the Council. It has, therefore, been arranged that he should visit the different divisions of the Bengal Provinces and hold conferences with the local officers, the leading zemindars and intelligent representatives of ryots. He has already proceeded to Dacca for the purpose of this special enquiry. A correspondent thus writes to us on the subject: "I dare say you have heard that Mr. Reynolds is to meet the Commissioner of Dacca, Mr. Pellew, at Dacca on the 17th Instant in solemn conclave assisted by a *Punchayet* of five Collectors *viz.*, Mr. Coxhead, Collector of Dacca, Mr. Veasey do. of Backergung, Mr. Weekes do. of Furreedpore Mr. Jones do. of Tipperah and Mr. Alexander do. of Mymensing to discuss the proposed Rent Law. How much do these Collectors know about the relations between Landlords and Tenants!" These Collectors, without meaning any disparagement or disrespect, we submit, are young in the service, without much local experience, and as we believe without much practical knowledge of the relations subsisting between the landlord and the tenant in their respective districts, and of the working of the Rent Laws. It is not their fault that they do not possess the necessary knowledge. Under the prevailing system of promotion and transfer our local officers generally speaking have been perpetually on the move, and as they seldom stay long enough in a particular district, they have not much opportunity to acquaint themselves with the condition of the people, and the relations of one class with the other. Under Act VIII. of 1869 the jurisdiction of the Revenue Courts in rent-suits has been withdrawn, and the Collectors have therefore no opportunity of watching the influence of the law on the life of our agricultural population. But Mr. Reynolds' enquiries will not, we believe, be confined to the local officers. He will, we believe, hold conference with Zemindars, Vakils, Mooktears, and representatives and friends of the ryot. In other words he will now do what the Rent Commission ought to have done at the outset. He will take evidence which the Rent Commission ought to have taken before preparing their Bill. But how will he proceed? What new light will he draw by a flying visit to this district or that district? We hear that he is expected to conclude his enquiries within three months? Can such a stupendous work as a local investigation into the working of the landed tenures in Bengal, be completed within so short a time as three months? In the first place Mr. Reynolds' hands have been tied by the draft Bill. His object is to enquire whether or no the provisions of the Bill are acceptable to the zemindars and ryots. But will no enquiry be made into the preliminary and primary question as to whether there is any necessity for such a radical and wholesale measure as has been propounded by the Rent Commission. The first question for enquiry is as to the present condition of the Bengal ryotry. Is it better or worse than that of the peasantry in the other provinces of India? We have repeatedly quoted the opinions of the Bengal Government under successive Lieutenant-Governors to the effect that the Bengal ryot of the present day is far better off than his brother in Upper India, in the Deccan, in Madras. No less a friend of the ryot than Sir George Campbell has admitted this fact, and the present Lieutenant Governor is of the same opinion. Sir Ashley Eden even goes further and holds that the Bengal ryot is in a far better condition than the peasant in some of the advanced countries of Europe. If such is the case, it is obvious that the present system of land tenures in Bengal has not hampered the prosperity of the Bengal peasantry. Where is then the necessity of fresh legislation, boulversing the present order of things, demolishing vested rights, and redistributing landed property for the sake of theories of men, whose responsibility will cease with their privilege to draw salary from the coffers of this country, but the evil effects of whose mischievous meddlesomeness will be felt by our children's children, aye, by all posterity? We do hope that Sir Ashley Eden will not act in haste. It is evident that by deputing Mr. Reynolds to make the

local enquiry under notice he is not satisfied with the work of the Rent Commission, that he wants more information, more light, aye a clear enunciation of the views of the people concerned. But Mr. Reynolds single-handed cannot perform this work within three months. Our Government ought to follow the English precedent in such matters, appoint a new Commission, and authorise it to take evidence on oath. Let the evidence of all classes of the people be taken and then a measure be based upon evidence so elicited.

THE VICEROY AT LAHORE.

THE Vice-Regal Progress has become an institution of the land since the transfer of the Government of India from the East India Company to the British Crown. It was Lord Canning, who first introduced the fashion. Considerations of policy first suggested to His Lordship this idea. Hindusthan had been practically reconquered after the Sepoy Mutiny. In the re-establishment of peace and order many native Princes and powerful and faithful subjects had rendered loyal co-operation, and Lord Canning justly thought that the best way of signalizing the great work would be a public recognition of their distinguished services. His Lordship also took this opportunity of declaring the paramountcy of the British Power in the Indian continent. While recognizing the integrity of the Native States and guaranteeing the lawful succession of the Native Princes His Lordship addressed them as the Feudatories of the Queen, and the Princes, sensible of the substantial concessions made to them, did not object to the claim put forward on Her Majesty's behalf to the paramountcy of her authority. Lord Canning was followed by Lord Lawrence, who held the memorable Lahore durbar in 1864. Lord Mayo, Lord Northbrook and Lord Lytton followed the same example. But of these the first alone in regal pomp and dignity of utterances had approached the standard of Lord Canning. His Umballa Durbar of 1869 forms an important page in the history of British India. Lord Ripon has held his first Durbar in Lahore. No other Viceroy had, however, ventured to perform such an important ceremony within five months of his accession to office, and it affords us no small satisfaction to observe that His Lordship has acquitted himself so well. His Lordship, though a new comer to India, is not a stranger to Indian politics. As a quandom Secretary of State he is thoroughly acquainted with the tangled web of Indian administration, and many a question therefore come to him in familiar garb. He acted and spoke in the land of the five waters as if he had been a veteran Indian. To the Municipal Committee of Umritsur His Lordship addressed the assurance "that Her Majesty ever feels the deepest interest in the welfare of her Indian subjects of all classes and creeds." His Lordship added: "The description which you give of that rule in the address which you have presented to me shows me how justly you appreciate the principles by which I trust the Government of the Queen-Empress in India will ever be guided, and I can assure you that it will be my constant endeavour, so long as I hold the office of Governor-General of India, to apply those principles impartially and fully. I rejoice with you, gentlemen, at the prospects of restored peace, and at the return to India of so many of those gallant soldiers, who have been serving their Queen and their country beyond the frontiers of this land. I congratulate you heartily upon the part—of which you, gentlemen, of the Punjab may be justly proud—which has been taken by the regiments from these districts in the warlike operations of the last two years." To the address presented on behalf of the Alexandra Girls' School His Lordship said in reply:

I am peculiarly glad to have met you here in this Alexandra School, because the name of the institution recalls to me the fact that on the last day spent by me in England before I left my own country to come here amongst you in this distant land, I was honored by an interview with that illustrious Princess, whose name this school bears—the Princess of Wales, at which both she and the Prince of Wales expressed their deep interest in India, and at which His Royal Highness assured me on the agreeable recollections he brought back with him from this country; and how heartily he desired to hear from time to time of the welfare and happiness of its people. (Applause.) Gentlemen, I have been connected now for more years than it is altogether in some respects agreeable to recollect with the subject of education in my own land, and therefore, I naturally feel a very deep interest in all that concerns the progress of education in India. You are aware that it is the bounden duty of the Government of India to preserve the strictest neutrality in all that relates to religious matters in this country, that is a duty imperative upon us in fulfilment of distinct pledges definitely given, and to which we are bound to adhere. I have never thought, gentlemen, that the strict performance of that duty both as regards the Natives of this country and the various Christian denominations in India, involves in the least degree on the part of individual members of the Government any indifferance to religious education (hear, hear, and applause), and, for myself, I have always held and maintained at home—and my views upon that subject have undergone no change, though I have come many miles across the sea—that no education can be complete and thorough if it does not combine religious and secular education. (Loud and continued applause.)

We hope this honest declaration will satisfy the intolerant critics of Lord Ripon in England that the cause of religious freedom is not in danger in his hands.

Lord Ripon's entry into Lahore was marked with great pomp and circumstance. It seemed to have made a great impression upon the people of the city. To the Maharajas, Rajas, Chiefs and gentlemen assembled in Durbar His Lordship delivered the following address:

Maharajahs, Rajahs, Chiefs and Gentlemen of the Punjab,—It is to me a source of sincere gratification to have an opportunity of meeting in the capital of this province so soon after my assumption of the office of Viceroy the leading Chiefs and so large and influential a representation of the people of the country. With some of you I was already acquainted, others I meet now for the first time, but to all I offer a hearty welcome. I have been very glad to observe during my passage through the province many signs of progress and prosperity, and I received much pleasure from the friendly and cordial reception which has been accorded to me. The well-being of India very largely depends upon the state of agriculture and upon the condition of those whose interests are connected with the land and it is therefore very satisfactory to me to be informed that in this part of the country questions affecting those interests have been placed, so far as the administration can place them, upon a sound footing. I believe that throughout the Punjab the land tenures of every district have been carefully examined, defined and accorded, and that the assessments of the whole revenue has been settled upon a fair basis for a term of years calculated to afford free scope to the development of the resources of the province, and to the enterprise of its people. Special attention has been paid by the Punjab Government to the adjustment of tenure of land along the north-west frontier, so that the duties of watch and ward, which have been so long and on the whole so well performed by the Chiefs and landholders on that exposed border may be duly acknowledged and recompensed. The extension of the Punjab Railways must have a marked effect both on agriculture and on trade: we have now two lines traversing the province one already completed and connecting the Punjab with the sea, the other to Peshawar and nearly finished, and forming the great high road from Central Asia to the heart of India. These Railways open out remote districts, promote internal communication, and strengthen the defences of the empire. I have learnt with great pleasure that education is spreading among all classes, and that the people of the Punjab are giving strong proofs of their capacity for mental training and their appreciation of its advantages. I trust that the real run of higher education will be kept steadily in view, and that it will be directed not to separate classes by difference of culture or by an undue desire to introduce foreign ideas and habits of thought, but to throw open to all a common ground for intellectual development and to preserve and improve whatever is good in the indigenous literature of the country. All that I have seen appears to me to indicate the steady growth of reciprocal relations of friendship and confidence between Chiefs and the Supreme Government, and to show forth the attachment and devotion of the Chiefs to our Queen-Empress and the complete trust which the Government can place in them for all the services which they are so well qualified to render. No better proof of this can be found than their readiness to aid in the late war and the excellent spirit shewn by their Sirdars and officers as well as by their troops. The loyal co-operation of the Chiefs and the conduct of their contingents have, by the gracious permission of her Majesty, been recognised in various ways by decorations and titular distinctions, and the Government of India are also fully prepared to mark by substantial and public tokens of approval, the services of other Sirdars and native gentlemen who have accompanied our troops and our officers, or have in other ways given signal marks of their ability and their devotion in the performance of the several duties assigned to them. Her Majesty the Queen-Empress has commanded me to convey to the Chiefs of India her warm interest in their welfare, and not in their personal welfare alone, but in the success of their administration and in the well-being of the people of their States. For it is well known, and should be every where understood, that the British Government always entertains not only a desire for the honor and advantage of the Chiefs, but also a deep solicitude for their subjects, and that we measure the greatness of a State and the degree of its prosperity, not so much by the brilliancy of its court or even by the power and perfection of its army, as by the happiness and contentment of the people of every class. It is my earnest hope that the Chiefs now assemble around me will remember this and that they will continue to administer the hereditary dominions, the possessions of which is secured to them under her Majesty's Empire with justice and moderation, being careful to retain the affection of their people and even to introduce necessary reforms with moderation, for when disorders arise the British Government will judge that evils have crept in which requires remedy. The population of the Punjab may be justly congratulated upon the manner in which they have utilised the advantages of a generation of peace under our rule without losing their tradition of hardihood or their aptitude for military service. The general spirit of a people is reflected in its army and, whatever benefits the British Government may have been enabled through God's assistance to bestow on the Punjab, it could not have realised a better return than it has received in the untiring endurance and devoted courage displayed under circumstances especially trying to native troops by the Punjab regiments who have served during the last two years in Afghanistan. Maharajahs, Rajahs, Chiefs and Gentlemen, it has given me great pleasure to have this opportunity of addressing you in public Durbar. I believe that no such durbar has been held in Lahore by the Viceroy since 1864, when Lord Lawrence spoke to the Chiefs assembled around him in their own language; unhappily I am not able to follow his example in that respect, neither can I present myself to you as he did as an old friend and trusted guide, but having enjoyed the friendship of that great man for many years, and being animated by sentiments of the heartiest admiration for him, it will be my constant endeavour during my administration of Indian affairs to walk in his footsteps, and to apply his principles, and I know well that I could not give you here in the Punjab a better assurance than by this declaration of my earnest desire to promote your prosperity, and advance your welfare to the utmost.

There is no rhetorical flourish, no brilliant flash of wit or humour, no astounding original idea, no gushing sentiment in this address. It is the honest utterance of a good honest man. It fully sustains the character which Lord Ripon has earned in his own country and the reputation of which had preceded him here—*viz.*, a good, conscientious, earnest and affable man. His Lordship said that he wished to tread in the footsteps of Lord Lawrence. If his Lordship in saying this meant that he will make Lord Lawrence his model in regard to Affghan politics, he will be acting wisely. But we hope he will not follow the example of the late Punjab ruler in the internal administration of the country. A more narrow-minded, cold-blooded, and intolerant governor did not exist. Punjab had no voice when Lord Lawrence ruled it, but the *io pæans* which were sung in his praise came from disguised official lips. The emptiness of the vessel, however, became patent to the world when he came into broad day-light as the Viceroy of India. His Viceroyalty was a signal failure. We repeat we hope Lord Ripon will not make it his model. And we feel satisfied that his very instincts will lead him to a different path. This is evident from what he said in reply to the address of the Punjab Anjuman. After alluding to education his Lordship thus went on:

I have been much gratified, gentlemen, by the allusion which you have made to two measures of legislation which have been passed by the Legislative Council of India since I came out to this country. I am very glad, indeed, to find from the remarks contained in this address that the Bill relating to the appointment of Kazis is one generally acceptable to the Mahomedan community. I felt it my duty to give that measure an unhesitating support, because I found that it was one calculated to supply a want felt in many parts of the country by persons of the Mahomedan creed, and I need not assure you that it is always my desire to meet the views of all classes of the community, whether Mahomedan or Hindu. I am also much pleased to find that those who represent the Hindu community in this part of the country recognize the spirit in which the Government of India has acted with respect to the Vaccination Act. That was a question, no doubt, involving very delicate considerations. I can say for myself that I am strongly and deeply convinced of the value and importance of vaccination, and of the great benefits it is calculated to confer upon the community at large in the prevention of a terrible disease; but at the same time I was well aware that it was perfectly possible that errors might arise in respect to the intentions of the Government in the matter, that it was calculated to touch upon the religious feelings of a large portion of the community, and, therefore, that it was essentially necessary to apply its provisions with the utmost possible consideration and caution. The principle upon which the Government of India acted was, in the first place, to leave it to the Local Governments to decide whether the Bill should be applied at all or not under their jurisdiction. But we went further than that, and we said that we desired that it should be applied in no case in which there was a decided feeling on the part of the population against the adoption of the measure. I am perfectly confident that the Local Governments will fully understand the object which the Government of India had in view, namely, that the feelings of the populations should be ascertained and considered to the utmost, that the fullest opportunity should be given to them of expressing their opinions freely, and that no attempt should be made to force the measure upon them, or even persuade them to adopt it until they were convinced, by seeing the advantages resulting from its working in other places, that it was really for their good. You are kind enough to allude to some remarks made by me a short time ago at Simla on the subject of the cultivation of Native art. I can assure you that those remarks were the result of strong convictions on my part, and of a very earnest desire to see the arts of India cultivated in a manner consistent with their past traditions. I am firmly convinced that no art except that which is spontaneous and grows naturally upon the soil of any country, is ever likely to be carried to real success, but I can assure you that while I feel a great interest in the development of Native art upon the lines of the ancient and indigenous art of the country, I feel also an equal interest in those other important objects to which you have alluded, namely, the commercial development of the country and the spread of Western science. What you want in your education, as it seems to me, is that it should have its roots in the past, and that you should avail yourselves of all that is good and valuable in the results of times which are gone by, but that you should at the same time combine with those ancient historical recollections the advantages of modern

Western civilization. Doubtless, gentlemen, the task is a difficult one. It is not easy to blend together even the knowledge and the science of communities separated so very widely in many respects as are the peoples of the East and of the West; but, on the other hand, I see in the assembly of gentlemen now around me the best augury that could possibly be afforded that some such union of Western science with Eastern knowledge is before us in the future, and will be advanced by your efforts. I have learned, gentlemen, with peculiar pleasure that you have already done your part in marking your sense of the services rendered to the country by our gallant soldiers engaged in warlike operations beyond the frontier for the last two years. You may well here, gentlemen, in the Punjab have done this because you have every reason to be proud of the distinction won by the Punjab regiments upon every field in which they have been engaged. And now, gentlemen, I will detain you no longer except to say that if it should be given to me, through God's Will, to realize in any degree the character which your address has been good enough to attribute to me, and if, when my term of office comes to an end, whenever that may be; there should be any in this country who are willing to accord to me the honorable and distinguished title of a friend of India, I shall, I can assure you, regard it as one of the proudest distinctions of my life, and I am further sure that it will be by acting in a spirit of warm and friendly feeling for the populations of this country and with an earnest and deep desire to promote by every means in my power their happiness and their welfare, that I shall be most perfectly obeying the orders which our Queen-Empress entrusted to me on my departure from England.

The statesman, who could speak thus, spoke from the fullness of the heart. And it is needless for us to add that his heart is in the right place. He is evidently anxious to do his duty rightly, faithfully, and zealously, and one who listens to the only silent monitor in his breast and not to any extraneous considerations cannot and will not go wrong. He will not only exalt his own character but also that of the Government which he represents.

In reply to the address of the Senate of the Punjab University Lord Ripon said:

"I sometimes hear it said that there is not, in the present day, the same intimate communication and relation between Europeans and natives that existed in former times. I do not know how far that statement may be true, but I am quite sure of this, that if there be any truth in it, it is a matter for very serious consideration. It is a state of things which we ought to desire to remove, and I can quite perceive that there are circumstances in these times which tend of themselves to lead to that result.

Now, gentlemen, I believe that it is vain to contend against the natural tendencies of the age in which our lot is cast. We shall not be able to return to those somewhat patriarchal conditions which may have existed in the past; but I believe that we shall find in the future the means of a sounder and yet closer union between European and Oriental races, if we endeavour to cultivate a mutual understanding of the traditions of the West and the traditions of the East, of the Oriental and of the Occidental literature; and that we shall discover in the spread of a general education a new mode of supplying that bond of union which may have, to a certain extent, been wanting in recent years. I am rejoiced also to find from the address which you have presented to me that, although you mainly desire to promote the cultivation of Oriental languages and Oriental studies, you, by no means, are inclined to overlook the importance of a solid European education; and that you are not desirous to put aside the cultivation of English language, English literature, and English science.

I am confident that it is only by advancing both Oriental and English studies that we can hope to bind together more closely the various races which meet upon the common soil of India, and I am very glad indeed to learn from the evidence which your address presents, that you have by no means overlooked that consideration."

If Lord Ripon can solve the social problem, which he so earnestly alluded to, His Lordship will have rendered a service to the country the memory of which posterity will not let willingly die.

THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM.

WHEN His Grace the Duke of Buckingham accepted the Governorship of Madras, there was a feeling of surprise expressed in many quarters. Never before had a Duke of England condescended to come out as an Indian proconsul. The salary and grandeur of the office of Governor General might have had some attraction for one of such exalted rank, but no such consideration attached to a Presidency Governorship. But when it was known that his object was to retrieve a fortune that had been seriously impaired by his strong sense of filial duty and rectitude of purpose in paying off the debts of his father, no right-minded man could fail to respect the honorable feeling which had actuated him. And this circumstance convinced us that such a man would not be wanting in his duty to the millions entrusted to his care. The public expectation has not been disappointed. The Duke of Buckingham is not a brilliant man; he has not been endowed with extraordinary intellectual gifts, but he is a bluff honest Englishman, hard-working, and anxious to do his duty, and full of generous sympathies. During his five years' tenure of office in Madras he has given ample evidence of these qualities. His merits and services as Governor of Fort St. George were discussed at a public meeting of the native community lately held at Madras. One speaker said that the Duke's character approached Kalidasa's *beau ideal* of a ruler—

"Honour to him who labors day by day
"For the world's weal, forgetful of his own
"Like some tall tree that with its stately head
"Endures the solar beam, while underneath
"It yields refreshing shelter to the weary."

All the speakers laid the greatest stress upon the services rendered by the Duke in connection with the Madras Famine of 1877-78. One speaker said: "No doubt it was the duty of His Grace, as Governor of the Presidency, to protect the people. Unmindful of his own comforts and conveniences, His Grace devoted himself unsparingly to this benevolent cause; invoked the sympathy and help of his countrymen at home; travelled over the famine stricken localities; moved amidst the heart-rending scenes of starvation and misery; adopted the most humane policy for providing generous food and decent clothing to the poor millions; and thereby greatly mitigated human suffering and largely saved human life." But this was not all. The speaker did not refer to the unmanly opposition which the Government of India had offered to the noble efforts of the Duke. The former went to the length of deputing a special delegate to Madras to checkmate to all intents and purposes His Grace, but his Lordship did not mind any opposition. He went on fearlessly and steadfastly in the discharge of his duties, and if he did not command complete success it was not his fault. As regards his general administration, the same speaker whom we have quoted above, said: "The general administration of the Presidency by His Grace the Governor was characterized by a marked adherence to what Sir William Jones calls a cardinal maxim in the art of Government, namely, that the action of the State should be congenial to the disposition and habits, and to the religious prejudices and approved immemorial usages of the people.' His Grace's views in matters of State education and the Native Press, were marked by a spirit of liberal toleration, and commended themselves to the grateful approbation of the Natives. The lively interest His Grace took in our educational, industrial, and charitable institutions and in our hospitals and asylums, is too widely known to need specific mention here. And those who had the privilege of being invited to the Government House entertainments can hardly forget the kind hospitality and affability of His Grace, assisted by his highly esteemed daughters the Ladies Grenville, who, I am happy to observe, have won for themselves a claim upon the gratitude of Madras Society." This is no ordinary praise, and we who have watched His Grace's career, though from a distance, are in a position to say that it is well deserved. Another speaker said: "I am sure, that every one who has watched with intelligent interest His Grace's career, will agree with me in saying that on no occasion had the people any reason to complain that their confidence in the Governor was misplaced. Gentlemen, justice in a ruler is a virtue that least attracts the notice of the people; but it is the virtue, that is most difficult of attainment, and most difficult to be practised. When we know that our Governor was possessed of this priceless virtue, it is our bounden duty to cherish his name with respect and affection." Justice—unalloyed justice—said Sir FitzJames Stephen, is the bulwark of British rule in India, and an Indian Governor, who inspires the confidence of the people by his justice and fair play, constitutes a strong pillar of the Queen's Indian Empire. The speaker who moved the adoption of the address laid great stress upon the religious toleration of the Duke. He said: "All of you remember, no doubt, the now famous Weld case. That gentleman was, to be sure, actuated by the best of intentions in his inconsiderate, I was going to say, insane zeal for sanitary reform. But as in carrying out what was in itself a laudable object of pursuit, the wishes of the community were unceremoniously neglected and their feelings rudely trampled upon, His Grace of Buckingham emphatically condemned the conduct of that officer, and made of him an example for other magistrates of similar capricious propensities." And one such act is worth a hundred thousand platitudes of the Stracheyan school. The same speaker thus noticed the part which His Grace took in opposing the Vernacular Press Act: "At a time when Lord Lytton and Sir John Strachey and even Sir Alex. Arbuthnot were carried away by false alarms, and denounced the Vernacular Press as a pestilential nuisance, the Duke was almost alone among the rulers of the land in holding that the Vernacular Press should continue to possess those rights and privileges which were requisite to carry it from its present state of infancy to a condition of vigorous and useful manhood." And the Duke's name will go down in history covered with glory for his noble stand in defence of freedom of speech and writing. As regards the cause of native advancement the appointment of Mr. Muttuswami Aiyar was adduced by way of illustration. We have not space for more details.

In terms like the above the Duke of Buckingham, the retiring Governor of Madras, was praised by the leading men of Madras, and not one word in our humble opinion was exaggerated or misplaced. It was resolved that by way of commemorating his administration Choultries be opened by public subscriptions along the Buckingham canal, and that if the funds should permit a statue be erected to his honor. The citizens of Madras have performed an important public duty by thus honoring their retiring Governor.

BARODA.

BARODA continues to improve under the able and enlightened administration of Raja Sir Madava Rao. Every year furnishes fresh proof, if any further proof were needed, of the wisdom of Lord Northbrook in selecting the Raja to administer the affairs of the State. The task, which devolved on Sir Madava Rao when he was transplanted from Indore to Baroda in the spring of 1875, was exceedingly arduous: it was nothing less than to bring order out of chaos. He at once set himself to work with characteristic energy and earnestness; and the public knows well what have been the results of his strenuous and unremitting exertions to reconstruct the administrative system of Baroda on a new and improved basis. It is only fair to say that Sir Madava Rao could not have accomplished even a tithe of what he has done, if he had not had the good fortune to enjoy the confidence and cordial aid of Mr. P. S. Melvill, the Governor-General's Agent at Baroda.

The Minister's fourth Administration Report of the Baroda State for the year ending 31st of July 1879, is now before the public. This document is as interesting and instructive as any of its three well-known predecessors. Sir Madava Rao records, at the outset, that the relations of the State with the British Government continue as cordial and satisfactory as ever. He remarks:—"With the public good as the sole common aim, and guided by recognized fundamental principles, the Agent to the Governor-General and the Dewan can hardly have any wide or material differences of opinion in regard to the affairs of the Baroda State." Upon this circumstance, the reader should remember, depends Sir Madava Rao's success in performing the important and difficult task entrusted to him. If the representative of the Paramount Power had chosen to thwart him, he could not surely have achieved better results than Mr. Dadabhai Nawroji. A reformer in all countries, more particularly in an Asiatic state, must needs incur a large amount of unpopularity. His work necessarily compels him to tread on the corns of influential people with vested interests. In a protected Indian State the success of a reforming Minister like Sir Madava Rao, it will hardly be denied, depends entirely upon the cordial support of the Paramount Power. A striking example of this maxim was furnished during the year under report. The Sirdars of Baroda, for obvious reasons, could not be expected to look with favour on the measures adopted under the new *regime*. They made an elaborate written representation setting forth their sup-

posed grievances to the Agent to the Governor General during the year. Sir Madava Rao gives the substance of this important petition in the report. The petitioners complained of the refusal of the Minister to grant them interviews; of the setting aside of time-honoured customs and usages; of the reduction of their personal allowances; of the cutting down of horse and foot establishments affecting their interests; of their subjection to the jurisdiction of the ordinary courts of the State; of the interference with their civil and criminal jurisdiction in their inam villages; of the new system for the custody and preservation of public records; of the introduction of the police in supersession of their functions; of the retrenchment of public expenditure; and of the refusal of the present administration to give its guarantee to sowkars whenever the Sirdars borrow money for their private purposes. In a word, the petitioners protested against the reforms which had been effected by Sir Madava Row. If they had received any encouragement from the British Government—as they surely would have received if a man like Colonel (now General) Phayre had now been the representative of the Paramount Power at Baroda—the Minister's position would have become exceedingly difficult. But, instead of encouraging these Sirdars directly or indirectly, Mr. Melvill held a special Durbar at the Residency and replied to their representation. He told them distinctly that "ancient customs and usages will be observed as far as possible, but they cannot be pleaded to perpetuate abuses, and they must give way in the interests of good Government." He then went on to say:—"Due consideration will continue to be shown to individuals who are injuriously affected by measures which are opposed to the old custom of the State. The administration has power to make such reductions in personal allowances and in the establishments of horse and foot, as may be just and necessary. In doing this, every care has hitherto been taken, and will in future be taken, to prevent undue hardship to individuals." In this just and straightforward way Mr. Melvill disposed of all the charges brought by the Sirdars against the present administration of Baroda. Had the Sirdars received the slightest encouragement from him, the policy of reform which Sir Madava Row has been so ably and judiciously carrying out would have received a fatal blow.

The working of the various Departments of the State during the year under report was satisfactory. "The machinery for administering civil and criminal justice," writes Mr. Melvill, "is now fairly complete throughout the State, and it works exceedingly well." In another place he observes:—"The Judicial Department of the State is now established on a firm basis. It is sufficient for the work, is well paid, is officered except in some of the posts in the lower grade, by thoroughly qualified men, many of whom have been trained in the British service and the work is done generally in a highly satisfactory manner. The Judges of the Varisht Court and of the Sessions Courts would do credit to any service. There is of course still room for improvement in regard to despatch and precision. There is certainly no branch of the administration which gives greater satisfaction to the people than the judicial." This testimony coming as it does, from Mr. Melvill who himself was once a judge of the Lahore Chief Court, is very satisfactory and must carry weight with the public. It is interesting to observe that of the more than 10,000 original suits instituted in the Baroda Civil Courts during the year under report about 93 per cent. were for money. Sir Madava Rao makes some important observations on the subject of execution of decrees. It appears that 2,200 decrees were fully executed by the Baroda Courts during the year under report. These were of the value of Rs. 6,28,330. The number of decrees not executed at all till the end of the year was 3,540 representing a total value of Rs. 20,90,045. Sir Madava Rao truly remarks "a decree is but a paper to the decree-holder till he succeeds in getting it fully executed." We commend this remark to the framers of the new Civil Procedure Code and of the Deccan Agriculturalists Relief Bill, who have done every thing in their power to retard the enforcement of decrees in British India. There were altogether 10,606 criminal cases for disposal, being the same number as in the preceding year.

The general character of crime is light. The year under report being the second year of scarcity, there was, as might have been expected, an increase in offences against property. This was, however counter-balanced by a decrease in crimes of aggravated violence. From courts of criminal justice we naturally come to Jails. The prisoners in the Baroda prisons, to quote Mr. Melvill, "are well treated and well-fed." The Baroda police distinguished themselves during the year under report by the detection of a clever Currency Note forger. A man was arrested at Baroda with a complete photographic apparatus and a beautiful negative plate of a British Currency Note for Rs. 1000. This man and his two associates were convicted and punished. The Public Works Department of Baroda is doing useful work under the State Engineer, Mr. Hill. The most important works completed or under construction during the year under report were the Central Jail at Baroda, four district jails, two district hospitals, the Jumnabai Dispensary at Baroda, the new palace, the new High School or College, Court-houses and schools in various directions, and the railway extensions. The Guikwar's little railway between Miagam and Dabhoi bids fair to become a financial success. The length of the open line during the year was 3¼ miles and its net earnings represented a percentage of 3·83 per cent on the capital outlay. This result must be pronounced eminently satisfactory. The extension of the line from Dabhoi to Bhundurpore, length 9¾ miles, was nearly brought to completion during the year, and a survey was made for a line from Dabhoi direct to Baroda the length being 8½ miles. The foundation-stone of the College building was laid on the 8th of January 1879, on which occasion Sir Madava Rao made an excellent speech. He said:—"The fact is, education is all important to India. This is the lever—the only lever—by which this vast country can be extricated from that stationary condition in which it has remained through incalculable ages. Education, it is therefore, the duty of every one earnestly to promote every-where. The education of the masses is certainly very important. But my profound conviction is that the higher education, though necessarily of a small number, is still more important in the present condition and circumstances of India. I feel convinced that one Native to whom high education has been imparted at an expense of Rs. 1000 contributes infinitely more to the general progress of the community than 333 natives only slightly or superficially educated at a charge of Rs. 3 per head." The remark is perfectly true. The Baroda High School is doing useful work under the excellent management of Mr. T. Tait, the Principal. During the year under report the students increased from 327 to 373, and four passed the matriculation examination of the Bombay University. The chief medical officer of the State is Dr. Balchundra, whom Mr. Melvill calls "a most able officer." There were during the year 30 permanent hospitals and dispensaries throughout the State; and at these institutions 121,484 patients were treated, being an increase of 40,613 over the preceding year. The education of the young Maharaja is a subject the importance of which cannot be overrated. His Highness made creditable progress in his studies during the year under report.

The year under report was a year of excessive and ill-distributed rain-fall, which proved most injurious to the principal kharif or autumn crops; and as it followed a year of great scarcity, there was widespread distress among the people. Prices ranged pretty much as during the preceding year, that is, they were twice as high as in an ordinary year. To add to the miseries of the people, they suffered terribly from fever in September and October 1879. In consequence of the prevailing distress crowds of famished persons flocked to the capital. The relief measures adopted by the Baroda Durbar met the necessities of the case. The year under report being a year of scarcity and distress, the collections of the land revenue demand naturally fell off. The total demand was 94 lakhs Baroda Currency of which 2 lakhs were remitted in consequence of the badness of the season; of the 94 lakhs which remained for collection, about 82¾ lakhs were collected, leaving an uncollected balance of more than 11½ lakhs. The uncollected balances were no doubt, large; but they were, as Sir Madava Rao observes, the result of consideration shown to the ryots. The revenue demand was suspended in the case of those who could not immediately pay without ruining themselves, but who could pay willingly in the next season of prosperity. The total receipts of the State for the year under report were Rs. 131,20,642 Baroda currency, as compared with Rs. 1,20,12,211 for the preceding year. The disbursements amounted to Rs. 1,32,11,310. There was thus a deficit of nearly one lakh of rupees. But this deficit is not real, as interest due on Government paper was left undrawn to an amount more than equal to the amount of the deficit. Well does Mr. Melvill remark that considering the unfavourable character of the seasons, the financial result may be regarded as satisfactory. The sum invested by the Baroda State in securities of the Government of India is more than one crore of rupees; and the cash balance at the end of the year was 73½ lakhs in Baroda currency. The financial position of Baroda is, therefore, perfectly sound.

THE SITUATION IN THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

THE people of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh have hardly had time to recover from the effects of the severe famine of 1877-78 and of the terrible fever epidemic of 1879, when they are again threatened with a scarcity which, for aught we know, may ultimately develop into a famine. The widespread distress caused by the almost total failure of the *kharif* crops in 1877 was not quite over till the gathering in of the autumn harvest in October 1879. Then began the ravages of malarious fever, which carried off hundreds of thousands of human beings. A succession of good seasons alone could have enabled the people to recover from the effects of these calamities; but this has not been vouchsafed to them. The situation in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, though not yet quite hopeless, is still gloomy enough. The rain-fall in that part of the country during the past season has been much below the average of former years. The *Pioneer* thus describes the account of distribution of the rainfall in the Provinces. "Since the 1st of June less than 20 inches of rain has fallen, on the average, at all the stations in all the districts of the Agra division. Budaon and parts of Bareilly and Shahjahanpore in Rohilkhand have received nearly as little rain, and the whole of the Jhansi division, except the south of Lalitpur, has suffered equally from drought. In Oudh the districts of Hardui, Lucknow, Onao, Partabgarh, and Rai Bareili have had less than 20 inches of rains; and over many parts of these districts, especially in Onao and Rai Bareili the tanks used for irrigation have dried up, and the *rabi* cannot be sown. Mirzapore north of the Kaimur hills, and the whole of the Allahabad division, with the exeption of Jounpore, have been equally dry. In Cawnpore the drought has been greatest of all, the average rainfall of the district since June being just over 10 inches, while that of Cawnpore city itself has been only 5·7 inches. In some parts of Agra, Furakhabad, and Aligar the rainfall has been almost as light as in Cawnpore. In twenty out of the forty-nine districts of these provinces, the rainfall of the past summer monsoon has thus varied from under a quarter to a little over a half of the average. In many other districts, for example in Fyzabad, the rainfall has been very light, though heavier than in those mentioned above, and for a long time in August and the beginning of September the crops in these districts were in a very critical condition." The condition of the whole country from the Karamnasa river to Meerut was critical in the middle of September. The *kharif* crops were drying up, and the fate of the *rabi* was trembling in the balance. The heavy rainfall of the 17th and 18th of September did much good to those districts to which it extended. It saved the *kharif* that had not been completely lost, and enabled the people to sow the *rabi* crops. But this most

opportune fall was, unfortunately, confined to a few districts. Some showers fell in the Pertabgarh district in Oudh in the middle of October, which have slightly improved the prospects there. During the week ending the 30th of October, that is to say, after the passages quoted above had been written in the *Pioneer*, there was some slight rainfall in parts of Hamirpore, Banda, Kirwi, Allahabad and Hardui; and there was a heavy fall in parts of the Jhansi division. The season for sowing the *rabi* is over and even if rain were to fall now in those districts in which the spring crops could not be sown for want of moisture, it would effect no improvement in the prospects. Where the rabi has been sown its prospects depend entirely upon the Christmas rains. If these should fail, the scarcity about to afflict the central districts in the Province, which have suffered, greatly from the drought, will deepen into famine. The Government will not be justified in putting much trust in the winter rains. Even if these are early, general, and copious, there must still be widespread and severe distress in those parts, where the *kharif* has almost completely failed, and where the rabi could not be sown except in irrigated patches. The condition of the Rai Bareili district in Oudh is the worst of all. The scarcity of fodder is severely felt in that district, and the Government has already sanctioned the commencement of a relief work as soon as it may be found necessary. The situation in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh is thus very gloomy, and will become hopeless if the Christmas rains should fail.

The difference between the present situation in the North-Western Provinces and that in 1877 should be clearly understood. In the latter year the rainfall all over the Province, except in the eastern districts, was almost *nil* up to the end of September; and the *kharif* in the districts suffering from the drought was a general failure. But fortunately there was a general and abundant fall of rain in the second week of October, which secured the *rabi* sowings, and, above all, put a little heart into the people. This heavy fall of rain was, however, unfortunate in one respect. It lulled the Government into a false sense of security, and led them to think that the people would be able to pull through without any great help from the State. Again, in 1877 the famine in Southern India made the export trade in the Upper Provinces unprecedentedly active. In the present year the situation is worse in so far that there could be no general sowing of the *rabi* crops. The situation up to the present moment is better than that in 1877 in three respects. In the first place, the yield of the *kharif*, taking the Province as a whole, will be much larger than in 1877. In the second place, the export trade is at present very feeble, there being no distress in any other part of the country; and in the third place, the Government is alive to the actual state of things, nothing having occurred to lull it into a false sense of security. But if the Christmas rains fail, nothing can save the North-Western Provinces and Oudh from a famine.

We are glad to see that the Local Government has already set to work to make some preparations for the coming relief campaign. The principles of action it has sketched out are those recommended in the Report of the Famine Commission, which we have been discussing in these columns. We have strongly objected to many of these recomendations, for reasons we have fully explained. The report of the Famine Commission has not yet been considered and disposed of. We still watch with great interest to see what famine policy Lord Ripon adopts, pending consideration of the proposal of the Commission. There is, however, ample time for His Lordship to make up his mind, as the impending scarcity in the North Western Provinces will not deepen into famine until after the failure of the winter rains, if unhappily they fail. Meanwhile, the exact condition of the threatened districts in their agricultural aspects should be accurately ascertained. The Local Government has called upon district officers to submit statements with full information regarding those parts of the Province, which have been threatened with scarcity or famine. The information, as soon as it is received, should be placed before the public. There is one thing which Lord Ripon, in our opinion, should do without loss of time. He should direct the suspension of the *kharif* instalments of the land revenue demand in those parts of the Province, where the autumn crops have suffered severely from the drought. If this consideration be shown to the people, they will be spared the necessity, of borrowing at ruinous rates of interest; and, what is more important, they will feel "that they are being cared for from the very outset of their troubles, and will thus be kept in good heart to struggle with adversity." It was the rigorous exaction of the *kharif kists* in the North Western Provinces in the autumn of 1877, which pressed so very hard on the people. If people menaced by the effects of the drought be called upon to meet the demands of the tax gatherer, they will lose heart as also the scanty resources that they may have.

THE REPORT OF THE FAMINE COMMISSION.

VI.

Mr. Cairn and Mr. Sullivan have dissented from the Report of the Commission on the question of providing relief for the able-bodied. The mode of treatment suggested by them must commend itself to the approval of the right-thinking portion of the community. They write:—"If an adequate and timely supply of food has been arranged for, either by importation from other parts of India or private storage in localities difficult of access, we should divide the people needing relief into two classes, those capable of doing remunerative labour, and those who are not. The general testimony of the officers of the Public Works Department shows that remunerative work can only be got from persons in bodily condition capable of labour. The class who suffer most from famine are those who have no land, field labourers, weavers and village artizans. When employment fails them, they have no margin to fall back upon. It is essential to their safety, therefore, that when ordinary sources fail Government should have employment prepared for them. In those districts of the country, which are periodically subject to famine permanently useful works of public utility should be prepared, to be then ready for execution. On the approach of famine, these should be thrown open to all capable workers, under the superintendence of the Public Works Department. *No test would be required, as a full return in work would be given to the Government for wages paid by the piece system, the ordinary rates being paid, on a scale adjusted in accordance with the market price of food.* The works would thus cost, to the extent of such variation, more than if carried out during times of average prices, but otherwise the cost of supporting this class through the famine would be repaid to the State by the value of the works of utility executed. This class, as it would include also the blacksmiths, carpenters, bricklayers, and masons, who could exercise their calling on the public works, would probably comprise two-thirds of the people requiring the help of the State, if measures are taken at an early period before the people have become emaciated. * * * * The labouring class would thus be dealt with promptly, in an orderly manner, free from confusion and panic,—the capable workers passing at once under the charge of the Public Works officers,—and the weakly class remaining at home under the charge of the village officials, to whom they are individually known. By thus employing the capable workers, and maintaining the village organization, the distance and other tests, *which proved fatal to hundreds of thousands of starving people in the last famine, would be rendered unnecessary.*" Mr. Caird and Mr. Sullivan go on to say:—"It is to meet the case of the incapable workers that it is recommended in the Report to retain the unsatisfactory 'task-work' system, by which strong labourers are restricted to a limited amount of work, and the weak are compelled to fulfil their tasks under penalties sometimes dangerous to their lives to enforce—and also to employ the requisite accompaniment of 'task-work,' the complex machinery necessary for the prevention of fraud; *a system which assimilates the unfortunate recipients of relief to gangs of convicts sentenced to hard labour, and the engineers in charge to jail warders.*" This 'task-work' system must not be confounded with 'piece work,' which in India has a quite different signification. If the distress consequent on famine is grappled with at an early period, before the people have become emaciated, the number of these incapables will be comparatively small, and the method of dealing with this fraction of the community, at once the most economical and the most humane, will be to admit them to almost gratuitous relief, administered on a scale sufficient to maintain life, but insufficient to attract wilful idlers." The italics in the passages quoted are ours. We need hardly say that we fully concur in the views of Mr. Caird and Mr. Sullivan. It is impossible to form an adequate conception of mischief which the heartless and rigorous exaction of task-work did in the late famines in Southern India and the North-Western Provinces. This kept away thousands of people from the relief works, and left them to die the most horrible of all deaths—death from starvation. Sir John Strachey and his admirers and disciples may think that relief works are looked upon by famine-stricken wretches as "a vast picnic;" the London *Statesman* for October remarks, "it is a calumny upon the peasantry of India to depict them as a race ready to take advantage of, and abuse the assistance of the State." Our English contemporary continues:—"We appeal to every one who knows the patient, frugal, and industrious character of that peasantry whether it is not a slander to speak of them in this way, simply to justify the crime of having left them to perish as they were left by the Government of India to perish in 1877 and 1878." But then the motive, which led to the appointment of the Famine Commission, was to find justification for Sir John Strachey's complete reversal of Lord Northbrook's noble and successful famine policy,

In discussing the question of gratuitous relief even General Richard Strachey and Mr. Charles Elliott are obliged to condemn Sir John Strachey's enclosed poor-house system, and recommend the general adoption of Lord Northbrook's village relief system, which was in force during the Behar famine of 1873-74. The Famine Commission say:—"The poor-house system has generally been followed since 1861 in the North-Western Provinces, and has been highly recommended by many authorities for adoption elsewhere. It was believed that the objection to residence in a poor-house might keep away those not really in want, but would not deter any who suffered from real distress. There is, however, a great accumulation of evidence to the effect that the feeling of the people towards relief administration in this form is in most parts of India one of extreme repulsion; and that even in the North-Western Provinces in 1877-78 that repulsion was strong enough to cause many to lose their lives rather than to accept help on these terms. It was in Bengal in 1873-74 that the system of village relief first became prominent, and that indications were seen that it was preferable to the poor-house system, notwithstanding certain difficulties which attended it * * * on the whole there is no doubt left in our minds that the village system should, in the present condition of India, be preferred for general adoption, inasmuch as this system may involve the risk of a too free grant of relief, the poor-house system involves the more serious risk of insufficient relief." We have here the admission of General Strachey and his Civilian colleagues that, in dealing with famine, the risk of doing too little is more serious than the risk of doing too much. The significance of this admission cannot be exaggerated. It is only necessary to carry it to its logical conclusion in order to justify the measures, which Lord Northbrook adopted to encounter the Behar famine successfully. Had Lord Lytton understood that in famine, as in war, it is a thousand times better to exceed the necessities of the case than to fall short of them, he would not have allowed Sir John Strachey to starve several millions people to death in 1877 and 1878.

LETTERS ON THE RENT BILL.

II.

By Babu Surjinarain Sing, Pleader, Bhaugulpore.

THE following further observations occur to me in respect of chapter I. over and above what has been stated in para, 3, and its subparagraphs.

Section 6. The date of the Permanent Settlement 22nd March 1793 should be specified. The word "fixed rent" is used in Section 6 (a) but elsewhere (Section 6 (b) and 9) rate of rent—one phraseology should be used. This difference exists in Acts 8 of 1869 and 10 of 1859 also.

Section 8. Increase or abatement should be proportional to assets and not area. Suppose the best lands have been washed away leaving only jungle and unproductive lands or *vice versa*; the present rule will operate injuriously to both landlord and tenant. Area may be the basis where assets cannot be ascertained.

Section 9. In addition to what has been already said as to the provisions of this section, there appears to be no provision as to the standard of fairness in case of tenures &c. falling within the exception to section 6 (referring to tenures in temporarily settled estates) why should not the rule of 30 per cent., if it be fair in the case of permanently settled estates, apply to this case also?

Section 10 *Clause b.* "Final order so enhancing such rent." Does this mean order of the last Court? If so, the case may last 10 years and the next enhancement would be delayed 20 years instead of 10 as intended.

6. I beg to make the following remarks on chapter II.

The date of the Permanent Settlement should be specified and the difference of phraseology in the section where "rent" and "rate of rent" as above pointed out are used should be rectified.

Section 18.—The observations made on Section 8 apply:—

Although under the provision of Regulation XI. of 1825 ryots have a claim to accretions it is worthy of consideration whether the complications that may arise from an enforcement of this claim and the difficulty of properly defining the lien of accretion in front of the jote lands of various small holders do not outweigh the advantages that flow to the ryots from those provisions. Will the rent that may be assessed be liable to variation or will it be permanently fixed? Under Act 9 of 1847 accretions to estates are liable to assessment by Government. Will the assessment by Government be limited to the rent payable by the ryot?

7. The following are my observations on chapter III.

Section 19.—In my opinion much complication is introduced by the recognition of a sub-class of occupancy ryots holding under a superior grade of such ryots. Similarly the landlord ought to be free to deal with khamar lands in any manner he may choose. The law should clearly state that no length of holding under an occupancy ryot or of khamar lands shall confer a right of occupancy with the exception that in the case of the latter class of lands such a right can be acquired under a written contract duly registered. The qualifiying words "year by year" and "for a term" lead to a variety of contention. Clauses (b and (c) of this section should be entirely omitted and every body will understand his position in respect of holding under occupancy ryots and of khamar lands under landlords if the legislature clearly define that no rights can be acquired by tenants in them.

Clause h.—This clause saves only contracts made at the time of taking the holding and registered, but why should not written contracts made before registration was compulsory to the effect that no right of occupancy shall be acquired in the holding or those that have been made or may be made before the acquisition of the right in question, though not when the ryot was first let in, be similarly saved.

Section 20 *Clause d.* I do not see the justice of denying to the occupancy ryot the right of mortgaging the land if he has the right of sale &c. When he has the right of selling he is sure to fall into the hands of the money-lender if he be improvident. A mortgage security may cheapen the rate of interest he may have to pay and it may enlarge his credit. Perhaps relief by death in the estimation of some is better than recovery by the remedy of amputation. Are not the right of mortgaging and the liability to sale in execution of decree generally, the logical sequence of the right of alienation conferred by the Bill?

7*a*. Connected with this subject is the question of abolition of the power of distraint. What guarantee is there that a right of occupancy at every place and under all circumstances will sell for more than what may be due to landlords as arrears of rent for three or four years? If well regulated the right of distraint cannot be generally abused.

7*b*. *Section* 20, *Clause* (*e*). If there is a breach of contract wilfully made and without any mitigating circumstances no compensation should be given. Where there are mitigating circumstances such as would justify a court of equity in refusing a decree for forfeiture and the breach of contract can be measured in damages no forfeiture should be decreed but damages may be awarded to the landlord.

7c. The people of this country whether landlords or ryots and even the native judicial officers are not very familiar with the subject of compensation and its proper assessment will be a matter of great uncertainty and difficulty. In the first place tenants do not keep any record of the expenditure incurred in improvements and when their personal labor or that of the members of their family is brought to bear on cultivation mainly it is not easy to keep such a record. Besides, the determination of what proportion of the improvements has been exhaused and what remains unexhausted is a very complex question. Disputes will also arise as to whether the fences, ails, &c. were on the land previous to the tenant being let in or they were constructed by the tenant himself. If the principle of awarding compensation on forfeiture be adhered to, it ought to be confined to cases where the breach was not wilful and there may be mitigating circumstances in favor of the tenant and improvements coming under explanation to Section 29 ought to be omitted. My reason for recommending this omission is that the reclaiming, clearing and enclosing of land for agricultural purposes is such an essential part of cultivation and therefore of letting land for such a purpose that the tenant may always be presumed to have received its *quid pro quo* when the land was taken and rent fixed. In short that this improvement may always be represented to have been provided for at the time of assessing the rent and may be deemed to have been exhausted in the very first year of cultivation.

Section 21.—I fail to see the justice of the provision limiting the landlord's share of rent in kind to fifty per cent. of the gross produce of the staple crop mentioned in clause c. Section 23. The proportion of fifty per cent. is generally the ratio, but different proportions also exist in certain parts of the country, and their existence in my opinion is proof that there must be good reasons for the ryot's agreeing to them other than the mere rapacity of the landlord class. It is well known that the Government revenue in certain parts of the country where the *bhauli* system prevailed was assessed on the money value of a larger proportion of the gross produce than fifty per cent. and if such was the case how can this proportion be justly reduced. This proportion is paid from before the time of the Permanent Settlement. The ryot has a right to claims under Section 16 that it be not modified—ought not the landlord to have a similar claim? When the proportion is less than fifty per cent. can the landlord raise it to that proportion? Suppose a ryot is holding land at a rent in kind and the proportion he pays is less than fifty per cent. of the gross produce from the time of the Permanent Settlement. Under section 16, this proportion cannot be changed but if he pays more, under this section it will be reduced. there is no reciprocity then if this section be passed, It may be thought that more than fifty per cent. where such a proportion exists is too excessive—but it will be remembered that cultivation in this country at present does not require so much labor as in European countries. The ryot can well afford to pay it where it prevails. As the Commission have not thought fit to reduce money rent where it bears a larger ratio to gross produce than 25 per cent., the same reasons ought to prevail in the case of rent in kind. The effect of the provisions of the latter part of this section will be the abolition of payment of rent in kind altogether where non-staple crops may be grown by the ryot. If a ryot is permitted to change the crops for which he had agreed to pay a certain proportion of the gross produce he will, having the power to introduce any non-staple crops and the advantage of forcing the landlord to accept money rent not exceeding 25 per cent., of the average annual value of the gross produce—cultivate a non-staple crop and thereby reduce his liability and the landlord's rent without entering into any contract with him in respect of the proportion of such non-staple crop payable to his landlord. If the object of the legislature be to abolish the system of rent in kind it ought to do so in plain terms instead of by indirect provisions of this kind. If the system be kept on no ryot ought to be allowed to change the crop which he had contracted for without entering into a specific agreement in writing with the landlord regulating the shares of both parties in it.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

HIS HONOR the Lieutenant-Governor will return to Calcutta to-morrow at 10 A. M. His Honor comes by the Eastern Bengal Railway.

THE BENGAL Secretariat Press has set a bad example. It has issued the Bengali translation of the Report of the Rent Commission and the draft Bill in a supplement to the *Bengali Government Gazette*, but the supplement is dated the 2nd November and was issued or delivered on the 9th idem. Was our copy delayed or was the Supplement really not issued till the 9th instant? If the latter, does it not look like a case of ante-dating?

FOLLOWING the example of the other provinces Bengal has joined the movement to raise subscriptions in aid of the Patriotic Fund. A meeting of the leading men of the different classes of the community of Calcutta was held at the Chamber of Commerce on Friday last, the Chief Justice presiding. His Lordship made a good and sensible speech urging the claims of the Fund. The following Resolutions were passed at the meeting:

Sir Richard Garth moved and Archbishop Goethals seconded the first Resolution:

That a Local Committee be formed for the purpose of receiving subcriptions and otherwise assisting in carrying out the objects of the Patrotic Fund. That the committee be formed of the following gentlemen, who have kindly consented to serve on it:

The Lord Bishop of Calcutta; His Grace the Most Revd. Dr. Paul Goethals; the Very Revd. A. C. Rodrigues, Vicar General; the Hon'ble Mr. W. F. McDonald V. C. the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Romesh Chunder Mitter; the Hon'ble Maharaja Jotendro Mohun Tagore, C. S. I.; the Hon'ble G. C. Paul, C.I.E. the Hon'ble Horace A Cockerell; the Hon'ble J. B. Knight, C.I.E.; the Hon'ble Rai Kristo Das Pal Bahadoor, C. I. E; Mr. C. T. Buckland; The Venerable the Archdeacon of Calcutta, Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, Barrister-at-Law; Colonel F. S. Stanton R. E.; Deputy Surgeon general E. J. Payne, M.D.; Mr. W. M. Souttar, Commissioner of Police, Calcutta; Mr. H. Beverley; Lieutenant-Colonel B. Walton C. I. E. Lieutenant-Colonel. G. F. Graham. Commanding, C. V. R. Lieutenant Colonel R. M. Rogere, V. C. Commanding H. M's 90 Regiment, Fort William; Lieutenant-Colonel O. F. Smithers. Commanding at Alpore; Surgeon-Major J. M, Coates M. D Revd. G. G. Gillan M. A. Mr. R. Steel, Sheriff of. Calcutta; Mr. R. L. Upton, Mr. E. W. Crumm. President of the Chamber of Commerce; Mr. J. Caithness. Master, Trades Association; Mr. J. J. J. Keswick; Mr. A. A. Apear: Mr. F. Newburn; Dr. E. W. Chambers; Mr. H. W. I. Wood; Mr. A. F. A. Watkins; Mr. T. Payn, Manager. French Bank; Mr. F. McAlpin; Mr D. J. Zemin; Mr. E. Hickie; Mr G. H. P. Evans. Barister-at-law; Mr. J. W. Furrell: Prince Feruk Shaw Mr. Elias S. Gubboy; Mr. Elias David Ezra; Mr. Manickjee Rustomjee: Hajee Nor Mahomed; Mirza Abdool Karim Shirazee; Nawab Abdool Luteef; Mulvi Mahomed Eusuf. M. A; Maharajah Narendra Krishna; Maharajah Komul Krishna; Rajah Rajendra Lall Mullick Bahadoor; Babu Doorga Churn Law; Babu Mohiny Mohun Roy, High Court; Babu Unnodaprosad Banerjee, High Court.

Mr. Souttar proposed, and Maharaja Narendra Krishna seconded, the second resolution viz:—

"That the following gentlemen (Mr. E. W. Crumm; Babu Durja Charan Law; the Hon'ble Maharaja Jotendro Mohun Tagore, C. S. I.; the Hon'ble J. B. Knight, C. I. E.; the Hon'ble Rai Kristodas Pal Bahadoor, C. I. E; Colonel Fergus Graham; Mr. H. Beverley. C. S.; Mr. R. Steel; Mr. Elias Gubboy and Maharajah Narendro Krishna Bahadoor) do constitute a working Sub-Committees for the purpose of carrying out the said objects, under the direction of the Local Committee."

Mr. E. W. Crumm proposed and Babu Durga Charan Law seconded the third resolution viz;—"That H. Beverley. Esq. and the Hon'ble Rai Kristodas Pal Bahadoor, C. I. E. do act as Secretaries to the Committee, and H. W. I. Wood, Esq. as Treasurer of the Fund to be collected under the directions of the Local Committee, and that an account be opened at the Oriental Bank in the names of—hereinafter to be determined upon—into which the subscriptions to the fund shall be paid from time to time by the treasurer.

Mr. R. Steel proposed and the Hon'ble J. B. Knight, seconded the fourth Resolution. "That immediate steps should be taken for the formation of district Committees in various parts of this Province, to co-operate with the Local Committee in carrying out the aforesaid objects.

Mr. Horace Cockerell proposed the last resolution, seconded by Nawab Abdul Latif Khan Bahadoor. "That the wishes of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, that Sir Richard Garth be appointed president of the Patriotic Fund Committee be confirmed.

Maharaja Narendra Krishna Bahadoor, seconded by Mr. Beverley, then voted the thanks of those present to the president, and this being carried with loud applause, the meeting broke up.

We are glad that no public meeting was held and no speechification was inflicted. Although there is a wide difference of opinion as to the obligations of Government in this matter, we hope all classes of the community will co-operate heartily in the cause of charity.

WE HAVE RECEIVED from the Bengal Secretariat a copy of a letter addressed to the Board of Revenue proposing the abolition of the Wards' Institution. In the first place it criticizes the recommendations of the Committee appointed to enquire into the working of the institution, and in the second place it suggests considerations for its abolition. We will discuss the last question hereafter, but in justice to the Committee we think the Government should have published the instructions issued to them and their

report. The public would have then seen whether in making their report the Committee had disregarded the instructions issued to them. In Mr. Mackenzie's letter it is asserted that the Committee have "assumed throughout their report that a Central Wards' Institution would in any case be maintained." The reason is obvious. The Committee had not been asked to consider whether the institution should be maintained or not; they had been invited to report on the working of the institution with a view to its improvement. To turn round now and to say that the Committee have made an assumption, which they had no reason to advance, is simply to charge them with the dereliction of a duty, which they had not been called upon to perform. If the Government had wished that the Committee should consider the question of abolition, it ought to have made its mind clear upon the subject in the letter of appointment. Then Mr. Mackenzie says, "it seems, indeed, to be practically admitted by the Committee that the institution is not a success." Now, the Committee have nowhere said so in their report. It is an arbitrary "assumption" on the part of Government. Referring to the proposal of the Committee that the institution should be located in Calcutta Mr. Mackenzie remarks, "the Lieutenant-Governor attaches little importance to the reasons given by the native members of the Committee for thinking that the proper place for a Wards' Institution is Calcutta." We confess we were not prepared for this back-handed blow from the Lieutenant-Governor to the "native members" of the Committee, who were selected by himself. If he attaches "little importance" to the opinions of the Native members, why did he appoint them? Of course it could not be expected that His Honor would agree with them on all points, but surely such disagreement could have been expressed without sneering at them. We reserve remarks on the general question of the abolition of the Wards' Institution for a future occasion.

WE ARE no admirers of the Calcutta Public Library under its present management, but at the same time we cannot subscribe to the criticisms, which the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to pass upon it in reply to its application for aid from Government. In the first place His Honor objects to the establishment of the Library, which he evidently considers extravagant; the establishment charges for the last three years amounted to Rs. 12,670, or Rs. 4220 per annum or Rs. 350 per mensem. Now, this is not at all an extravagant establishment. The highest pay given is that drawn by the Secretary, and it is only Rs. 100 a month. Surely this is not an extravagant sum to place above temptation an officer, who is in charge of books worth some lakhs of rupees. The Librarian of the Asiatic Society, the library of which is not a circulating one, and by no means so rich, is paid Rs. 200 a month. Then Mr. Mackenzie on behalf of the Lieutenant-Governor finds fault with the selection of books made by the Council of the Library. He says: "It further appears from the catalogue of books purchased in recent years, and from other information, (is it Mr. Mackenzie's personal knowledge as a subscriber) that such new books as are purchased are badly chosen, the great majority being novels, and no attempt is made to keep the library properly supplied with the latest works in any branch of solid literature." Whose fault is this? The Council of the Library are bound to consult the tastes and wishes of the subscribers, and if the latter choose to read only novels, the former must conform to the demand of their customers. They cannot hope to maintain the Library, if they do not obey the laws of demand and supply. After criticising the management of the Library in this self-satisfying style Mr. Mackenzie tells the Council of the Library that the Lieutenant-Governor is willing to grant aid, if they will make an unconditional surrender, and practically pass the institution to that all devouring department of the Bengal Government, the department of Public Instruction. No wonder that the Council of the Library have peremptorily rejected the proposal of Government. They ought to have in justice to themselves exposed the shallowness of the criticisms contained in Mr. Mackenzie's letter. May we ask whether the Government has a "voice potential" in the management of the Agri-Horticultural Society, to which it gives a grant-in-aid?

IN THE prosecution of his antiquarian researches Dr. Rajendralala Mitra has discovered the history of the connection of the Government with the Calcutta School-Book Society, which throws considerable light upon the subject. He finds that the Society was established in 1817, by private individuals, and supported by private subscriptions. In 1821 the Government sanctioned a grant of Rs. 500 per mensem for its support, but did not, on that account, claim any control over its affairs. The Society took charge of the Government Book Agency in 1855, "by tender," without in any way making it subordinate to Government. The terms proposed, and accepted, says the learned antiquarian, did not in any way affect the autonomy of the Society; still, to prevent misunderstanding, it was at the time also remarked "that by entering into an engagement to supply the Government colleges and schools, and to conduct, in a modified form, the business of the former Government Book Agency, the Committee have not compromised the character of the Calcutta School-Book Society as an independent public institution, intended to promote the interests of education generally on the principles laid down in the constitution of the Society." Two or three years after, the grant bills, which were formerly paid by the Civil Auditor, were ordered to be countersigned by the Director of Public Instruction; but this was purely a departmental arrangement and did not in any way affect the *status* of the Society. Our learned countryman then remarks:

> It is worthy of note, too, that though the society recieved a government grant, and undertook, in 1855, to supply books to Government schools and colleges, it never changed its constitution, and its Presidents and members were regularly elected by the members, and not appointed by Government. The president was elected by the members with reference to the interest he took in education, and his social position; and not with reference to his office in any Department of Government. On Mr. Seton Karr's retirement in 1870, Mr. Atkinson, then Director of Public Instruction was elected President; but the election was made quite independently of his official position. Even then the Rev. J. Long opposed the election under the apprehension lest it should in any way compromise the character of the Society. The majority, however, thought that from the nature of the community in Calcutta at least a majority of the officers and members of the Society must be Government servants; but in the Society they appeared as private individuals interested in the furtherance of public education and not as Government officers. That was the case in the Asiatic and Agricultural Societies both of which receive Government grants in some form or other and so it would be with the School-Book Society, and that in electing Mr. Atkinson they selected the individual and not a Government officer. That idea has all along been borne in mind and gentlemen as private persons have been elected Presidents and not as Directors of Public Instruction holding the office of President *ex-officio*.
>
> I was not a little surprised therefore when at the last meeting it was urged that the Society was surbordinate directly to the Education Department and through it to Government.

By way of supplement to the above facts Mr. Croft, the Director of Public Instruction, who is President of the Committee, remarks that "the Society has been placed, by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, under the control of the Diector of Public Instruction in respect of the above grant, *i. e.*, of Rs. 500 a month and in future, reports will have to be made to the Director, from year to year." But surely an independent Society cannot be placed under the control of the Director of Public Instruction by the mere fiat of the Lieutenant-Governor. If His Honor has done so, he has either acted without a sufficient knowledge of the real facts of the case, or has exercised a stretch of authority which he had no right to assume. Then Mr. Croft says that "when he was appointed Director of Public Instruction he was addressed by the Secretary as President of the Committee, and that he had not been elected at any previous meeting." He adds, "it appears to me probable that the Secretary assumed, as I did, that the office was attached to the Directorship of Public Instruction, my three predecessors having held that office." But, he admits, "there were entirely no grounds for such an assumption." This admission is tantamount to an admission of all the facts adduced by Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, and yet the Government has practically destroyed the functions of the Society by arrogating to itself an authority, which did not belong to it.

THE DEPARTMENT of Account and Finance will be reorganised under a scheme propounded in the Government of India Resolution published in the *Gazette of India* of Saturday week last. The important feature of the scheme as expressed in a recent despatch of the Secretary of State is that, recognising the distinction between the administrative business of finance and the duties of accounting, which may well be performed by officers and clerks, who would not be likely to become efficient financiers, the more special duties of the Account Branch might be performed by uncovenanted servants, many of whom should be natives of India. There are now in the Department 46 sanctioned appointments besides a sanctioned staff of 14 probationers in training to fill vacancies. Under the new scheme the department will consist of 1 Comptroller General, 5 Accountants General, 30 Enrolled officers consisting of 2 Deputy Comptrollers General, 1 Assistant Secretary, 5 Comptollers, 5 Deputy Accountants General, and 17 Assistants Comptroller General, Assistants Accountants General and Assistants Comptrollers, besides 8 Chief Clerks. The appointment of a chief clerk will be gazetted, and he may sign letters or discharge any other duties assigned to him by the head of his office. The Accountant Generalships will be treated as reserved by statute to be filled ordinarily, by members of the Covenanted Service. Enrolled officers may be either of the Covenanted or Uncovenanted Service, but in appointing an Uncovenanted officer the previous approval of Her Majesty's Government will be necessary, and subject to this general condition the Government of India has reserved to itself free discretion to appoint any person to be an enrolled officer. In order that there may be a supply of officers, qualified by practical experience, to succeed to the office of Accountant General three of the 30 enrolled officers actually present on duty, will, as a rule, be Covenanted Civil Servants. The office of Comptroller General will not necessarily be filled up by promotion of an Accountant General, or a vacancy in the office of Accountant General by promotion from the enrolled list, or a vacancy caused by the transfer or promotion to a higher class of a Covenanted Enrolled Officer by the promotion of a Covenanted Enrolled Officer from a lower class. Eventually, the two first class enrolled officers will usually be Uncovenanted officers, if the department contains such officers whom the Government of India considers fully qualified by standing and merits to be so appointed. Besides the Chief Officers abovementioned there will be four Chief Ministerial officers, and eight probationers to provide for the ordinary recruitment of the Uncovenanted Enrolled officers, these latter will be selected by conpetitive examination of three nominees for each vacancy, the nominees at every third examination being natives of India of unmixed descent. The salaries of the several Chief Officers, Ministerial officers and Probationers will be on the following scale:—Comptroller General Rs. 3,500 Accountants General, Bengal and Bombay, Rs. 2,750 each with a local allowance of Rs. 250 a month, the remaining three Accountants General two Rs. 2,500 a month each, and one at Rs. 2,250. The thirty Enrolled officers will be divided into six classes, 2 in the first class, 5 in the second class, 7 in the third class, 8 in the fourth class, 4 in the 5th class and 4 in the 6th class. They will receive graded salaries, 1st class Rs. 1,750 to 2,000, 2nd class Rs. 1250 to Rs. 1,500, 3rd class Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,250, 4th class Rs. 800 to Rs. 1,000, 5th class Rs. 600 to Rs. 800, and the 6th class Rs. 400 to Rs. 600. The four superior ministerial officers will be paid one at Rs. 400 to Rs. 500, one at Rs. 400 to Rs. 480, two at Rs. 300 to Rs. 390, or they will be attached, one to the office of the Comptroller General, one to that of the Accountant General, Bengal, and one to that of the Accountant General, Bombay, the third remains unallotted. We had thought that the Government would take this opportunity to do away with the distinction between the covenanted and uncovenanted services, but this is not to be!

ON THE 14th August last a full bench of the Calcutta Small Cause Court composed of the 1st and 2nd Judges decided an important question of the law of carriers in the case of Buldeoram Narain Das *vrs.* the East India Railway Company connected with the delivery of goods to consignees at the Howrah Station. Against this decision there was an application for a second new trial made by the Railway Company before a full bench consisting of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Judges. Mr. Allen, Counsel for the defendant Company argued the case at considerable length before the above bench on the 11th September last. The three Judges delivered three separate judgments of which we gave an abstract in our issue of the 4th October last. The Court on the evidence found that the Railway Company under their contract resulting from the course of business followed by them were bound to deliver goods into carts or boats supplied by consignees of goods. The evidence was that the freight charged by the Defendant Company was inclusive of the charge for cooley hire, and this being so the Court was perfectly right in holding that the real contract was not only to convey goods from the despatching to the terminal station but also into conveyances, which might be carts or boats supplied by consignees, and that if before this was done, the goods were lost, the Railway Company were liable in the same way as if the same were lost at an intermediate station, before reaching their destination. The liablity of the Railway Company for loss of goods before delivery into carts or boats was thus finally determined by the Court. We are, therefore, not a little surprised to read in the *Englishman* of the 9th instant the following notice:

East India Railway Company. Delivery of goods at Howrah:—On and from the 1st. January next the Railway Company will cease to lift goods into carts or boats from the platform at Howrah.

Delivery must be taken by the consignees upon the Company's goods' platform and consignees must make their own arrangementa for removal of goods from the platforms.

On and from the same date, the Railway Company will not make any allowance to consignees for goods removed by their own coolies.

All labour required in the removal of goods must be provided by the consignees at their own cost

(Sd.) BRADFORD LESLIE, *Agent.*

Calcutta, 9th November 1880.

This notice virtually sets at naught a solemn decision of a court of justice. Of course the Railway Company are at perfect liberty to alter their contract, but the evidence in the case being that the freight charged was inclusive of all charges together with the charge for removing goods from their platforms into carts or boats, we we do not see with what equity the Railway Company can change this practice without reducing the freight. For years the Railway Company have employed a large numberof coolies under contract with Messrs Burn and Co., to remove goods from their platforms into vehicles supplied by merchants. Have they gone on doing so gratuitiously? We do not think they were so generous. If they wish to avoid the responsibility, we hope thay will take off the conveyance charge.

COMMERCIAL.

(FROM OUR COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Saturday, 20th November, 1880.

There has been no important change in our commercia markets during the week under review. In imports busines has continued dull whilst in Exports there was a better feeling which helped some improvement and a fair amount of business was done, but when compared with that of the past years for the same period and with the aid of the present money facilities it is considered too insignificant.

Money continues cheap and there has been no change in the rates of discount or interest.

Government Securities.—This market has been less active and prices much fluctuating at the close. Following rates ruled.

Rs. 97-10 to 97-11 for 4 % Rs. 106-6 tu 106-8 for 4½ %

Joint Stock Shares —There was a good demand for Jute stocks and prices have rapidly advanced. In others nothing of importance has transpired except in Bowreah which have experienced a good speculative demand at advanced rates.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.	Rs.	As.	P.
J. H. Reily Esq., Burrisaul	7	0	0
Baboo Kadarnauth Mookerji, Parpoor	13	4	0
,, Tarucknauth Bose, Sisiparah	8	0	0
,, Poolinbehary Mojoomdar, Pandooah	5	0	0
,, Kristomohun Bose, Cuttack	20	0	0
,, Shoseevooson Mookerji, Benares	13	4	0
,, Prosannocoomar Ghose, Magoorah	10	0	0
,, Kadarnath Bannerji, Mahendru P. O.	10	0	0
,, Rojonycoomar Dutt, Chandpur	13	4	0
,, Chunderkant Mookerji, Dhubri	13	4	0
,, Oodoychunder Banerji, Meerut	6	10	0
,, Dwarknauth Roy, Mooltan	3	0	0
,, Hurrycoomar Roy Chowdry, Purneah	8	0	0
,, Gnanodaprosad Ghosal, Kaliabor	10	0	0
,, Kadarnauth Mojoomdar, Cooch Behar	5	0	0
,, Mohendranauth Bhottacharji, Fyzabad	6	10	0
,, Toolsydas Mookerji, Shibpore	13	0	0
,, Bykuntnauth Dutt, Shibpore	13	0	0
,, Kylashchundar Mookerji, Tezpore	5	0	0
,, Bhuanlal, Durbhangah	10	0	0
,, Durgaprosad, Bankipore	6	10	0
,, Gungapursad, Ajmere	13	4	0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette.—*November* 17, 1880.

GENERAL.—The Hon'ble H. L. Dampier, Member of the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, reported his return from furlough on the afternoon of the 1st instant.

Mr. T. Jones, Fifth Judge and Clerk of the Court of Small Causes, Calcutta has been granted by the Secretary of State for India extension of leave for three months on sick certificate.

Baboo Lall Mohun Shome, temporary Sub-Deputy Collector Khoolna, Jessore, is allowed leave for six months under Section 4, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Coda, in extension of that granted to him under orders of the 6th March last.

Mr. T. Smith, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Burdwan, is allowed leave for one month and twenty-seven days, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 24th instant.

Mr. A. C. Brett, District and Sessions Judge Jessore, is allowed leave for two months, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 1st proximo.

Mr. J. F. Bradbury, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector 24-Pergunnahs, is appointed to act as District and Sessions Judge of Furreedpore during the absence, on leave, of Mr. C. A. Kelly, or until further orders.

The orders of the 16th ultimo transferring Mr. J.T. Babonau, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rungpore to the Chittagong Hill Tracts district, are cancelled.

Mr. A. C. Mackertich, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is posted to the Sudder station of the Chittagong Hill Tracts district.

Babu Anund Chunder Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Backergunge, is vested with the powers of a Collector under section 4, Act VII (B. C.) of 1880.

Babu Juggut Doorlub Rysack, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jessore is allowed leave for ten days under section 10, Supplement F. of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he may avail himself of it.

Babu Nobin Krishna Banerjee, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Serampore, Hooghly, is allowed leave for two months, under section 4, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he may avail himself of it.

Babu Khetter Mohun Mookerjee Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hooghly, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act VII (B. C.) of 1880.

Babu Gopal Chunder Mitter, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Manbhoom was in charge of the Gobindpore Division of that district from the 27th September to the 6th October 1880, both days inclusive.

Babu Hurri Mohun Sanyal, temporary Sub-Deputy Collector, Second Grade, Maldah, is appointed temporarily to be a Sub-Deputy Collector of the First Grade, *vice* Moulvi Syed Mobaruck Ali.

Kumar Rameshwara Sing, Assistant Magistrate and Collector Durbhunga, is transferred to Bhagulpore.

Mr. H. Thompson, Officiating Collector of Customs, Chittagong is appointed to be a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the Fourth Grade.

Mr. Thompson will continue to act on his present appointment during the absence, on leave, of Mr. Warden or until further orders.

Mr. H. N. Harris, District Superintendent of Police, Rungpore is appointed to act in the Third Grade of District Superintendents of Police, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. A. R. Wilkinson or until further orders.

Mr. E. M. Showers, District Superintendent of Police, Nuddea, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the Fourth Grade of District Superintendent of Police, *vice* Mr. H. N. Harris.

Mr. C. H. C. Sevenoaks, Assistant Superintendent of Police Backergunge, is allowed leave for three months under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 1st August 1880.

Advertisements.

COMMISSIONERS FOR MAKING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PORT OF CALCUTTA.

As required by section 53 of Act V. B. C. of 1870, Notice is hereby given that the accounts of the Commissioners for making Improvements in the Port of Calcutta for the half-year ending 30th September 1880, will be audited at the office of the said Commissioners on Monday the 29th November 1880.

Port Commissioner's Office, Calcutta, 18th November, 1880. } W. D. BRUCE, *Vice-Chairman.*

Notice.

Wanted immediately Contractors to execute about 21,32,034 c. ft. of Earth-work, about 5,66,950 s. ft. of Turfing and other items of works on the Singpar a and Sreenagar Road in this District. Plans, Sections and Estimates can be seen and other particulars obtained on application at District Engineer's Office at Dacca.

GANGADINATH MOOKERJI.
Hd. Overseer in charge of District Engineer's Office, Dacca.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the shareholders that the Directors have, under rule, 6 of the Articles of Association, made the second call of one rupee per share payable on or before the 20th day of January next.

Bengal Banking Corporation "Ld." No. 7 Old Post Office Street, Calcutta The 13th November 1880. } By order of the Directors BHOOBAN MOHAN DAS. *Secretary.*

NALHATI STATE RAILWAY.

Alteration of Train.

Notice is hereby given that on and from 1st December next and until further notice, only the present Nos :—1 up and 2 down trains will be run daily on the Nalhati Line, instead of the double trains.

R. G. MOOKERJI,
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Notice.

Calcutta, 5th November 1880.

The Office of the Private Secretary to the Viceroy, including the Government House Treasury, has been removed to the South-West Block, No. 16, of Loudon's Buildings (late Spence's Hotel).

The Private Secretary will continue to hold his personal office at Government House.

D. PANIOTY,
Assistant Private Secy. to the Viceroy.

HISTORY OF DARJEELING IN BENGALEE.

To be had of Babu Hurry Mohun Sanial, Darjeeling, and of Babu Hurry Nath Mojoomdar, Kumarkhali for Re. 1-4 including postage.

FOR SALE.

Early volumes of the *Hindoo Patriot* Newspaper from 1864 to 1879 at Rs. 14 per vol. Apply to Babu Juggesh Chunder Baner jee, Canning Library, College Street.

Notice.

" Sylhet, what I have seen, read and heard of it ; By Shumbhoo Chunder Dey, Price 12 annas.

My Leisure Hours, by the same, price (reduced) 4 annas. To be had of Messrs. G. P. Roy & Co., 21, Bow Bazar Street, and of Babu Shib Chunder Dey, Hooghly Judge's Court."

WANTED.

Some experienced Mohorers well-versed in Zemindary accounts and Naibs for management of Sudder and Maffussil Zemindaries. Apply by letter only with copies of testimonials to

LOLIT MOHUN ROY,
Zemindar, Chakdighee.

6th November 1880.

WANTED.

A head clerk for the Nattore sub-divisional office. Salary Rs. 50 rising by increments of Rs.2 to Rs 70 a month. Candidates are requested to state their age, and previous services. Address the undersingned.

Nattore Sub-Division, } G. K. LYON,
The 9th November 1880. } *Sub-Divisional Officer.*

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PREPARED BY DR. H. W. MITNISH M. D. M. R.C.S.

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This is a well known preparation of the age (preferable to Cod Liver Oil and Sarsaparilla) to get strength and fat, purify the blood, improve the health and recover the life from wasting diseases.

It is agreeable to the palate, innocent in its action, and as a specific for the speedy and permanent cure of Piles, Anæmia, Spleen, Female complaints, Eruptions of the Skin, impoverished blood, impaired sight and memory, Rheumatism, Palpitation of the Heart, Loss of Energy and Appetite, impaired nutrition, General Debility, Constipation, Indigestion, Nervous Debility and Consumption (in its incipient or first stages only.)

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Mullick's well suited spectacles and eye glasses have been proved by thousands to be the best and the cheapest ever offered to the public.

		Steel.	*Silver.*	*Gold.*
Pebbles, Concave, Convex spectacles ...	Rs.	6	8	22
Neutral tint Ditto Ditto	,,	5	7	20
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Spectacles for cataract sight and of various kinds and make to be had.

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The Temple of Urania ; or, The Art of Foretelling Events by Geomancy ; the Pythagorean Wheel of Fortune, &c., &c. By M. Nostradamus, Rs. 5 per copy. Apply to Mr. Thos. Smith, City Press ; and W. Newman & Co., Calcutta.

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Special Notice.

LIFE ASSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

Bonus Year, 1880.

THE Books for the current Quinquennial Period close on 31st December next, when the profits accrued during the five years will be ascertained and divided.

All Policies on the Participating Scale opened in 1880, will share in that Division, and at the close of each future Quinquennium will rank for a higher Bonus compared with later Entrants.

The Bonus is calculated not only on the Original sum Assured, but also on all existing Bonus Additions previously declared.

At last Division in 1875 the Bonus ranged, according to the duration of the Policy, from £1-5s. to £2 per cent. per annum on the Original Sum Assured.

The Progressive Improvement of the Life Assurance Department may be marked by contrasting the following results for the first four years of the past Quinquennial Period with those of the present Quinquennium, *viz.*—

	1871-74.	1876-79.
New Assurances ...	£3,204,135	£3,998,880
Revenue	£1,542,144	£1,744,598
Additions to Funds ...	£321,077	£502,686

The rates are moderate and compare favorably with those of other offices, as the following examples will shew.

During life for assuring Rs. 1,000 *payable at death without profits.*

FOR CIVILIANS. *Age.*	*Yearly.* Rs. A. P.	FOR MILITARY MEN. *Age.*	*Yearly.* Rs. A. P.
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40 ...	35 14 0	40 ...	41 9 0
45 ...	40 3 0	45 ...	45 4 0
50 ...	46 6 0	50 ...	50 4 0

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N. B.—RISKS ON NATIVE LIVES are accepted on special terms.

মৎপ্রণীত ইঙ্গরাজী বাঙ্গালা ডিক্সনারী, আট পজি ৬৬ ফরমায় সম্পন্ন হইয়াছে। ইহাতে প্রায় ৪০০০ চা হাজার অতিরিক্ত শব্দ সন্নিবেশিত হইয়াছে। ঐ সকল শব্দের অধিকাংশই বৈজ্ঞানিক পদ। ইহা সংস্কৃত প্রেস ডিপজীটরীতে, হিতৈষী যন্ত্রালয়ে কৃষ্ণদাস পালের লেন ১নং বাটীতে ও আমার নিকট পাওয়া যায়। মূল্য ২৷৷০ টাকা, ডাকে পাঠাইতে হইলে মাশুল ৵০ আনা লাগিবে। শ্রীগোপালচন্দ্র বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়।

২০/১/৮৭ প্রধান শিক্ষক কলিকাতা নর্ম্মালস্কুল।

AMRITA CHOORNA.

A PANACEA

FOR

VARIOUS MALADIES.

THIS Medicine was formerly in a liquid form and known as the Amritarssa all over India and the adjacent countries. It is now converted into powder for reasons enumerated below.

1*stly.*—The qualities of the powder have been proved to supersede those of the liquid in an extraordinary degree. It is never spoilt if not mixed with water, whereas in liquid form the spoliation of the medicine occured at times, but the cause was quite invisible.

2*ndly.*—The guaranteed safety of this powder during transit by Post. About two years ago unusual numbers of phials broke while in transit and a heavy loss was sustained by me and others.

3*rdly.*—Packing and Postage charges of this medicine are exceedingly low now. Five sets of medicine in a single Tin cover can be sent on a postage of annas 4 only all over India, and the charges of packing for 5 sets of medicine are annas 4.

This medicine has been a great boon to the public of India and the adjacent countries from its power of curing the most obstinate diseases with an unparalleled success. It is infallible in the cure of the diseases of the Cranium, diseases of the Lungs Pthisis, Asthma, Palpitation of the Heart, Acidity &c, Colic Pain, Chronic Fever, Spleen and Chest and Heart diseases such as Consumption Liver, Jaundice, Diarrhœa, Dysentery, Gout and Rheumatism, Dyspepsia, Mercurial Taints, Blood diseases and those supposed to be irremediable.

It is the best specific for all sorts of female affections such as Dysmenorrhœa, Diseases after delivery, menorrhagia, Hysteria, Fearful dreams, Delivery of still-born child and others and can be relied on as the safest medicine.

Hundreds of testimonials from gentlemen having occasion to try this medicine in themselves and in others have been published in the form of a Pamphlet in Bengali, and can be had on application.

The cost of each set of Amrita Choorna is Rs. 4 only. Packing charges 4 As. and Postage 4 As.

A remitter of Rs. 50 at one time can have 14 sets of the medicine and thereby becomes a gainer of Rs. 11-8 in the bargain.

Purchasers are requested to examine my trade mark on each side of the packet.

All remittances should be made strictly in advance either by Postal Money orders or by Government Currency Notes. Court Fee Stamps will not be received.

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This medicine is the best of its kind and gives immediate relief. More than 90 per cent. patients are being cured. The cost of fifty Pills, which can be administered in more than twenty cases is Rs. 3-8.

The pamphlet contains only the principal certificates bearing testimony to the efficaciousness both of Amritarasa and the Cholera Pills and can be had on application with one anna postage stamp for despatch by post.

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WE beg to draw the attention of the various Educational Departments of Government, and of all Donors of Prizes to Colleges and Schools, to our large and varied Stock of SILVER MEDALS, suitable for Presentation to Students and successful Prize-winners.

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A GOLD or SILVER MEDAL, of 1¾ inches in diameter.

Cash Prices { Gold Medal, in Case ... ... Rs. 200
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It bears on the OBVERSE the head and bust of Her Majesty, within the legend "Victoria Empress," and on the REVERSE a raised Laurel Wreath only; thus leaving space for inscription. *Vide* Illustration.

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Silver Medals, with Wreath on each side, 1¾ inches diameter ... . Rs. 19 ,,

NOTE.—The prices quoted are for the Medals and Cases only. Any engraving or inscription which may be ordered to be cut upon them will be subject to a further charge, varying according to the cost of production.

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PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTS,
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Syrup of Hypophosphite of Lime.

The Diseases of the Chest, and the Consumption reputed incurable to this day will find an almost certain remedy in GRIMAULT &Co.'s Syrup of Hypophosphite of Lime; Asthma, Bronchitis, the different types of Cough, never resist to its salutary influence.

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GRIMAULT & Co.'s
Matico Capsules and Injection.

Renowned Physicians prescribe GRIMAULT'S Matico Injection as the most active and at the same time the most inoffensive remedy in the treatment of Acute and Chronic Diseases. The Matico Capsules, specially convenient to the persons who prefer an internal medication have not, like Copaiba, the inconvenience of given Nausea.

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Syrup of Lacto Phosphate of Lime.

Tonic, Reconstituent and Digestive of prime order, particularly suitable to Feeble subjects, Convalescents, old people, and Rickety Children, who find in them the Calcareous Elements entering into the Constitution of the Bones, well adapted to Ladies in the Family Way and Wet Nurses (whose milk it enriches.)

GRIMAULT & Co.'s
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Asthma, Nervous Coughs, Chronic, Laryngitis, Hoarseness, Loss of Voice, Facial Neuralgia and Insomnia are rapidly relieved by using those Cigarettes.

GRIMAULT & Co.'s
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A single powder of this vegetable production is sufficient to cure instantaneously the most violent Sick Headache. It is the most valuable remedy against Diarrhœa, Dysentery, and all disorders proceeding from derangement of Stomach or Bowels.

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On and from 1st August, 1880, until further notice the Bank will allow interest at the following rates :—On *Current Deposits* @ 2½% per annum on the lowest minimum monthly balance of Rs. 20 or upwards. No interest will be allowed on any sum exceeding Rs. 10,000 on current deposit.

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These rates will not apply to deposit made before the 1st of August, 1880.

It does the usual Banking and Agency business.

For further particulars, apply to—

BHOOBUN MOHUN DAS,
Secretary.
No. 7, Old Post Office Street, Calcutta.

DARJEELING STEAM TRAMWAY.

Notice.

This Tramway is now open for traffic between Siligori and Kurseong, and Passengers, Parcels, and Goods can be booked through from Sealdah to Darjeeling and intermediate Stations or *vice versa*, arrangements having been made to convey by Tonga or otherwise, all Passengers and Goods to and from the temporary terminus of the Tramway.

For further particulars apply to the Traffic Superintendent, E. B. Railway, Sealdah; N. B. S. Railway Saidpore, and Darjeeling Steam Tramway Company Ld. at Silligori, Kurseong, Darjeeling, and the various intermediate Stations or to the undersigned.

Calcutta.
22nd September, 1880. } GILLANDERS, ARBUTHNOT & Co.,
Secretaries.

আদরিণী।

বঙ্গদর্শন, বান্ধব, আর্য্যদর্শন, কল্পদ্রুম প্রভৃতি সুপ্রসিদ্ধ মাসিক পত্র সমূহের কতিপয় সুলেখক কর্ত্তৃক আদরিণী নামে একখানি মাসিক পত্রিকা ও সমালোচনী (১২ পেজি রয়েলের ৩০ পৃষ্ঠা) আগামী অগ্রহায়ন মাস হইতে নিয়মিত রূপে প্রকাশিত হইবেক। অগ্রিম বার্ষিক মূল্য ডাকমাশুল সমেত ২৲ টাকা। যাঁহারা গ্রাহক শ্রেণী ভুক্ত হইতে ইচ্ছা করেন অনুগ্রহ করিয়া আমাকে জানাইবেন।

বালোড় রাজহাট পোষ্ট আফিস্ হুগলী। শ্রীতারকনাথ বিশ্বাস, আদরিণীকার্য্যাধ্যক্ষ।

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Will be held on next New Year's day at the Villa "Seven Tanks." For the benefit of the Calcutta Charities.

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HAVING BEEN APPOINTED SOLE AGENTS IN INDIA
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HAVE ALSO NOW TO HAND
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An efficient substitute for Quinine. Sold by the principal European and Native druggists of Calcutta Obtainable from the Superintendent, Botanical Garden. Calcutta. Post free, at-4 oz., Rs. 6 : 8 oz., Rs. 11., 16 oz., Rs. 20-12 Cash with order.

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